

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Epitome	231
Leading Articles .—	
Cosmopolites	232
Likin	232
Piece Goods	233
Of Taste	233
Incidental	233
Japanese Emigrants	234
China's Blessed Meekness	234
A Doctor Summoned	235
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce	235
Sir Thomas Jackson	237
Hongkong Sanitary Board	238
Building and Sanitary Laws	240
The Public Health Bill	240
A New Steamer	240
Antung	241
Shipping at Hongkong	242
Supreme Court	243
Gathering Wild Flowers	245
The Observatory	245
Crime in the Colony	246
Development of the New Territories	247
Commercial	247
Shipping	249

DEATH.

On Sunday April 5th, at 315 Abbeydale Road, Sheffield, in his 80th year, and fortified by the last rites of the Church, FRANCIS DEALY, of Cook Bridge, County Wicklow, Ireland, R.I.P.

AGRADECIMENTO

FRANCISCO M. P. DE GRACA, irmãos e sobrinhos, PIO M. DE GRACA, JOSE A. DE GRACA e sua esposa, reconhecidos pela prova de interesse e amizade recebidas durante a doença e falecimento do seu muito saudoso pai, avô e sogro FILOMENO MARIA DE GRACA, veem por este meio agradecer com gratidão a todas as pessoas que acompanharam n'aquelle transe doloroso, que honraram com as suas presenças o funeral, que enviaram grinaldas e que lhes deram peçames.
Hongkong, 11 de Abril de 1908.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VEAUX ROAD C.L.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of the 10th March arrived at Hongkong on 7th April, per s.s. *Yorck*.

The French Mail of 13th March and the Supplementary mail from London dated the 14th March, arrived at Hongkong on the 13th inst., per s.s. *Australien*.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The third steel steam-launch, the "Wheeler," built to the order of the Philippine Government by the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., left for Manila on Saturday.

A private telegram informs us that the directors of the Yangtze Insurance Company of Shanghai are recommending a dividend at the rate of 25 per cent. in the old shares.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that the Governor-in-Council has decided to resume Lot 398 in Survey District No. 4, New Kowloon West, for public purposes. The owners are at present unknown.

According to the official returns, Japan's total rice crop last year aggregated 49,043,802 koku, showing an increase of 5.9 per cent. as compared with the previous year. The returns also show an increase of 11.8 per cent. over the average crops for the past seven years.

The private yacht "Nirvana," which is owned by Madame la Comtesse de Beam, arrived in port on Saturday morning from the Straits Settlements. The party on board consist of the Comtesse and a party of six. Shortly after arrival visits were paid by Admiral Sir Hedworth Lambton and others.

H.E. Chang Jen-chün, Viceroy at Canton, has thrice sent in his resignation. Prince Ching has, therefore, recommended H.E. Chang Chih-tung (who was formerly Viceroy of the Liangkuang provinces to the Throne as being the most suitable man for the Viceroyalty, but Chang Chih-tung has refused the post on the ground that his age is too advanced for such an important and difficult position.

A Japanese in Kobe bewails the corruption of his young fellow countryman by the pernicious examples of foreign business men there. He proceeds:—"The spotless trousers with the mark of the folds showing conspicuously, the snow-white high collar, the neck-tie of bright colours, and the pattern of the stuff of the sack-over-coat redolent with the smell of foreign-made; a pair of spectacles to match, the glazed boots, the style in which the hair is groomed, the drooping moustaches—all these are things which they are worried about all the time."

The Captain Superintendent of Police in his annual report states that the following licences were issued during 1907:—

- 1,175 Hongkong Jirikshas.
- 50 Quarry Bay Jirikshas.
- 250 Kowloon Jirikshas.
- 37 Private Vehicles (27 Carriages, 6 Motor Cars and 4 Hearses).
- 1,033 Truck Licences.
- 644 Hongkong Chairs.
- 60 Hill District Chairs.
- 7 Gharris.
- 14,097 Drivers and Bearers. They are continually coming and going, hence the large number.

An unusual incident was witnessed on board H.M.S. "Kent" on April 7th. A Chinese contractor had been employed to polish and renovate the furniture and to do other work on the ship and one of his hands was named Wu On. On the day in question Wu was leaving his work at half past twelve, considerably before the recognised time, and his master remonstrated with him. Wu became angry and seizing a hammer attempted to strike his master. The latter, however, succeeded in wresting it from him, whereupon the enraged workman rushed to the side of the ship and drew a bayonet from a bayonet rack. He unsheathed it and made a lunge at Ng, who would in all probability have received the weapon in his body had it not been for the timely arrival of a marine from the upper deck who took in the situation at a glance and came to the assistance of the contractor. He seized the man and handed him over to the police. He was brought before Mr. Kemp at the Magistracy yesterday and was sentenced to six weeks' hard labour.

THE BOYCOTT.

A boycott that is not a boycott is undoubtedly being conducted by the Chinese in Hongkong against Japanese and Japanese products. In other words concerted action is being taken by some of the Chinese to show their disapproval of the Japanese attitude on the "Tatsu Maru" incident but the action is in such a form that it does not constitute a breach of the law. The resentment against the Japanese is not confined to a few irresponsibles as was at first thought, but on the other hand it is far from unanimous. Of course, there are many Chinese who do not express themselves very freely on the subject but that does not indicate that there is no agitation or feeling against the Japanese. As a matter of fact in nearly every shop in Queen's Road will be found a notice to the effect that Japanese goods are not kept in stock or that they cannot be purchased there, and one man is reported to have collected his stock of Japanese goods and dumped them in the harbour. But the most significant movement of all is that the Nan Pak Hong, which is the guild of Chinese export and import traders of Hongkong, have met and passed a series of resolutions. They decided to telegraph to Chinese merchants in Japan to stop making further consignments of goods from there, to arrange that goods already contracted for should arrive in Hongkong in other than Japanese bottoms, to refuse delivery of Japanese goods after the 30th instant, and to circularise members of the guild to affix their chops to the resolutions. When it is stated that all the Chinese firms in the guild, with the exception of three, have approved of this proceeding, it will be seen how widespread is the feeling.

The agitation among the Chinese against the Japanese still continues, and each day brings reports of various trades joining the movement. The porcelain firms are the latest to meet and pass a resolution joining the boycott. The native press have, we understand, been warned by the Hongkong Government through the Registrar General to be careful in what they say with reference to the boycott.

COSMOPOLITES.

(Daily Press, 4th April.)

We read in *The English Race*, the new journal of the Royal Society of St. George, that "the person who parades himself as a friend of all nationalities in reality cares for none. Cosmopolitanism is only another expression of a self-centred individualism." Some professed cosmopolitans may be egotists; "the person who parades himself as anything at all, even as an imperialistic Englishman, is apt to be what schoolboys felicitously call a "bounder," but surely it is irreligious and immoral thus sweepingly to denounce the ideal underlying cosmopolitanism. Your genuine cosmopolite is a man of large outlook; he is really more than cosmopolitan—he is a cosmicalist. Universal brotherhood to him means the inclusion, as with the holy-minded Hindu, of all living creatures, and not only all races of men. In his view patriotism dwindles to the status of petty parochialism, for his eyes behold in the glare of millions of suns this small globe of ours going gnat-like through a swarm of worlds. All living creatures in the Eternal Wheel of Things are to him companions in misfortune, to whom death cometh soon or late; or they are fellow sharers of the joy of life—according to temperament. That he might have been a Prussian, a Turk or else a Russian, or eke an Italian, is not a reflection to bring him a shudder, for it is, with his outlook on life, one of those things that do not supremely matter. He no more dreams of thanking God that he happens to be an Englishman than he would of thanking the Lord of Hosts for letting him be a Wesleyan. Just as the Israelites gloried in being the chosen people of Jahveh, so did the Moabites joy in being the elect of Chemos, the Ammonites of Rimmon, the Babylonians of Bel, and the cosmopolite smiles indulgently at all such fond pretensions, including the formula of the St. George's Society, by which the members make a point of acknowledging the divine favour of making them Englishmen. Such breadth of mind, and vastness of outlook, appears harmless enough, albeit somewhat impractical, and we would be surprised to find the redactor of the organ of the St. George's Society so vehemently declaring that "against such we are utterly opposed," did we not recognise the nature of his provocation. It appears that a writer in the *Japan Chronicle* is "avowedly a cosmopolite," and that the Kobe journal mentioned has been guilty of "malevolent misrepresentations," of an "illogical farrago of contradictions," and, in short, of treating the "work" of this patriotic organization very disrespectfully. The *Japan Chronicle* remarked, for instance, "The tone of the Royal Society of St. George is best expressed in the few words 'Thank God we are English.' To the mind even of a sincere religious man it surely must border on blasphemy to suggest that a Deity should have created one section of the human race superior to the many others that have also managed to exist upon the terrestrial globe."

The redactor of the organ of the Royal Society of St. George was infuriated thereby, and referred to the "plitudinous jaws" of the Kobe paper, to its "unctuous nonsense worthy of Uriah Heap and Stiggins at their best." Disentangling his argument from such obscurative abuse, we find him replying to this effect, that there is only one Deity, and that He did make the Englishman superior to the "heathen Chinese" or the "naked black man." If He had not done so—well, the reflection of the Society's champion shows how dreadful the position would have

been. "It is not pleasant," he writes, "to reflect that we, the countrymen of Shakespeare, of Newton, and of Locke, are no better than the painted savage who makes a dinner off a distant relative!" It may be that cosmopolitans are all a bad lot; it may be that the *Japan Chronicle* has under-rated the value of the St. George's Society; we really do not care to decide. One thing the little argument has made abundantly clear to us, and that is that at his next thanksgiving the gentleman who is "running" the Society's journal will be quite in order in rejoicing because he was not born a quadruped. It is pleasant to reflect that he, a countryman of Shakespeare, of Newton, and of Locke, is a great deal better off in many ways than the one who makes a dinner off—thistles.

LIKIN.

(Daily Press, April 6th.)

When the Wise Man of the East, the Indian Sage, Sir JAMES MACKAY, came to put in order the maladministered finances of China, he made a boastful promise that he was about to remove from the land the curse of *Likin*. He was warned that the curse he was adopting was of all others that most calculated to rivet its chains still tighter. This was in 1902, and it is curious to observe how completely the prophecies of those who from long experience of China foretold the failure of his 'prentice hand' have been fulfilled. With that fatal readiness to confound Chinese promises with Chinese performance which has been from the beginning of our intercourse the curse of the gushing young diplomat, Sir JAMES MACKAY, on the mere promise of Sir ROBERT HART, without any guarantee that he had authority to represent the Chinese Government, proceeded to barter away certain very tangible privileges, and increase both export and import duties one half. The concessions were accepted without demur by the authorities at Peking, but the corresponding reductions, which under Sir JAMES MACKAY's instructions he was to secure before parting with the extra duties, so far from being removed, have since increased enormously in their incidence everywhere; and besides this have in the face of the engagements entered into, been introduced with all their evil consequences in all the Northern provinces where before they did not exist. It was pointed out at the time that this would be the logical and therefore inevitable consequence of the concessions that Sir JAMES MACKAY proposed to make. Wise in his own conceit, and misled by Sir ROBERT HART who was in the affair simply, the mouthpiece of the Palace party at Peking, Sir JAMES MACKAY yielded the most important points at issue, only to find that Peking had not the slightest intention of fulfilling the unauthorised promises made for it by the Inspector General. It, of course, does not say much for Sir ROBERT HART's astuteness that he should have permitted himself to have been made the mouthpiece in such a questionable transaction, and it is only fair that we should look at the affair in the light in which he doubtless viewed it. As Inspector-General, when that office carried any political influence, Sir ROBERT HART had all his life been working to enhance the Imperial influence of Peking vis à vis the provinces. One by one provincial perquisites had been curtailed in the interests of the central Government, and when after the events of 1900 it seemed to the Foreign powers wise, in order to enable it to meet the new liabilities imposed on it, to make provision for the collection of certain dues previously classed as illegal, the collection was placed

in the hands of the Inspector-General. To Sir ROBERT HART, who continued to be blind to the inner working of affairs, this step seemed enormously to enhance the dignity of his office, with the result that he lent the services of his staff to introduce into North China the system of *Likin*, from which it had hitherto been exempt, and all the proceeds of the collection were paid over direct to Peking to the great satisfaction of the hangers-on of the Court. Unfortunately certain dues in the southern provinces had been allocated to meeting the engagements of 1900, and officers of the Maritime Customs being placed over these to ensure their collection, these likewise were diverted to Peking. Before 1900 certain shares in the Customs collections of the port, before remittances were made to Peking, were detained by the local officials in lieu of certain rights formerly surrendered. After 1900 these were rescinded, and the whole remitted. In addition to this, by the arrangement to which Sir JAMES MACKAY agreed, the rates of duty were increased fifty per cent, and the entire also sent up to Peking. The result of the diversion of all these revenues to the capital was that the provincials saw not only what seemed to them an unconstitutional strengthening of the Central Power, but a serious danger to their own exchequers. To permit the one levy on trade which was still available to them to be abolished at the command of Peking, without compensation, and in view of the fact that Peking, contemplated still further demands on the provincial Customs, was more than flesh and blood could stand. Sir ROBERT HART had been made a tool of to bring about the new state of affairs, but as he was no longer useful, it was not necessary to redeem his promises, which had moreover been made without authorisation; so the double purpose was accomplished of getting the whole of the duties, new and old, remitted to Peking, and at the same time, without formally dismissing him, of reducing the office to insignificance, with the intention of abolishing the whole establishment as soon as a pretext could be invented.

Sir ROBERT HART had permitted himself, as we have seen, to be made a tool for the introduction of the iniquitous, and as far as trade is concerned, the suicidal system of *Likin* into the northern provinces. The time had come when his council was no longer necessary, and the old ways might be resumed with impunity. One of the worst, if not the very worst, of the effects of the *Likin* system as administered in China, is its enormous cost to the country in proportion to the actual amount obtained, the service being so inefficient that nearly the whole is absorbed in collection. A whole army of useless collectors amounting in each province to tens or hundreds of thousands are spread over the country at every crossing of roads, each of whom is authorised to prey at his discretion on trade. As each man in descending order has had to pay to his immediate superior for the right, it can be readily seen that supervision is impossible, while each man's takings depending on his ability to seize what fortune offers, it will be seen that he has every temptation to exact the utmost. Practically it is a system of simple piracy—that he may take who has the power, and he may keep who can. This is the system which Sir JAMES MACKAY's ignorant and wrong-headed action has been effective in rivetting worse than ever on the neck of the country. It was one of the reasons that helped on the construction of railways, whose projectors fondly hoped that with the construction of railways the

work of the *Likin* gatherer would cease. It is one of the most potent proofs of the state of dependence into which the once powerful, and for commercial purposes most useful of institutions has fallen, that it permitted itself to be made use of to establish on the northern railways the most hateful and oppressive system of taxation ever conceived. Its latest development is in connection with the great main line from Shanghai, the great trade centre of China to Nanking, from whence is to start the trunk line to the capital. At first the line was left free, but apparently only till the *Likin* fiend had developed his plans for strangling the traffic. The first appearance was of an apparently unauthorised stranger in the receiving yard, who commenced making rather questionable movements. On being ordered off the premises he assumed an impertinent tone, whereupon the intruder was very properly told that if he did not go willingly he would be kicked out. The next, heard of the affair was a demand from the provincial officials to know why their *Likin* officer had been assaulted. As half the board of directors are Chinese, nothing could be done, so that the Office is now regularly, or irregularly—established with a right to tax *ad libitum*, it being one of the peculiar features of the system that it is above tariffs, each operation being independent and a subject of private bargaining. The absurdity of the system might seem to ensure its abolition, or its being kept within bounds, but so many live on it, and such is the hold it has been permitted to obtain, that all the resources of the Province are sure to be engaged in its favour. Not the weakest actuating cause of this tenderness is in disputably the growing opposition between Peking and the provincial administrations when everything is done by the latter to incommode and weaken the Central authority. We have lately shown how effective this feeling is in causing disorder, and how much of the actuating motives of the recent piracies on Northern rivers is to be attributed to this cause. The infliction of the *Likin* is on a par. The line of railway between Shanghai and Chinkiang has to stand the competition of water carriage, the line running the whole way parallel with the Imperial grain transport canal; and the local tariff rates have had to be fixed low to meet this alternative route. The imposition of an irregular tariff, such as is the *Likin*, is therefore calculated to stifle in the beginning this rising traffic, the benefits of which entirely accrue to Peking; and has doubtless been deliberately planned with this intention. The curious point which without an understanding of the hidden causes at work, would seem inexplicable, is that the Peking Government has guaranteed to pay interest on the capital expended on the construction of the line, and therefore has a direct interest in its success. In the face of this it appears as a consenting party to a scheme for actually rendering goods traffic impossible! Of course, being Chinese it sees this well enough; but such is the ill-feeling brought about by its recent attempts to hamper the provincial revenues, that the officers charged with the collection of the latter take every opportunity to cross the Imperial Government of the Empire.

Telegrams from Peking report that the three persons who have been arrested on the charge of selling State secrets to certain of the foreign Legations in Peking have been found guilty. It is reported that Kao has been ordered to be exiled to the New Dominion (Chinese Turkestan) to work, and that T'ao and Ku have both been sentenced to ten years' penal servitude.

PIECE GOODS.

(Daily Press, April 7th.)

The piece-goods trade at Shanghai is said to be in a "ruinous" condition, and we notice an attempt at explanation which, while it may or may not be capable of close comparison with Hongkong conditions, certainly throws an interesting light on Chinese ideas of business. It would seem that the more "gamble" there is in trade, the better some Chinese like it. Also it would seem that, for a consideration, initiated Chinese who are well-off are quite willing to let in Chinese who are not well-off. These novices do the "over buying" that spoils the market. They are described as "penniless shroffs, apprentices and hangers-on of the older dealers, men with little or no experience of the up-country requirements, and absolutely without capital." It is asserted that it is and has been the custom for brokers or other Chinese who wish to start in the piece-goods trade to pay a "cumshaw" to the shroff of one of the foreign hong, and for the shroff thereupon to introduce the man as a "dealer," "good for so much credit." Thus the new-made "dealer" establishes relations with as many hong as he thinks necessary to cover his idea of the amount to which his enterprise leads him to commit himself. Soon to his orders is shipped "a magnificent variety of cargo," which he has not sold, and certainly cannot pay for till he does. "Consequently, he can never really expect entirely to clear any one lot of cargo advantageously because it is hardly likely he can offer his cargo on any better terms than the older dealers with proper connections." He has to undersell these latter, and he can do so only by paying short on taking delivery. Thus he clears perhaps three quarters of any one shipment, and the remaining quarter he leaves to cover the shortage on his bill. His own manipulation of the market has made the cover insufficient, and so it goes on, from bad to worse. A few such men, introduced to only a few hong, can evidently do much harm to the legitimate market. It is asserted that even the more powerful hong have permitted such innovations, and the suggestion now is that all the reputable hong should lay their heads together and institute a more careful scrutiny of dealers coming forward as clients. It would not be difficult to find out if the candidate had been a buyer before, and if so, how he had taken delivery and met his liabilities. The desirability of a meeting of those interested is suggested, and we shall watch with great interest for its outcome.

OF TASTE.

(Daily Press, April 8th.)

Who are the arbiters as to what constitutes good taste and what bad? We know some who pose as such, but we want to know who really are? Perhaps we had better first try for a definition of taste. The taste of the tongue we know; this taste of the mind must be analogous. That which is "in good taste" must be that which is pleasant to the mind of the taster; that which is "in bad taste" must be that which offends the mind of the observer; and "in questionable taste" should mean that the taster cannot make up his mind whether the thing is nice or not. We have received a letter, which we do not intend to publish, in which the writer says Mr. WILLIAMS' letter in our issue of Friday last was "in questionable taste." The context shows that he really means that it was in bad taste. We are struck with this impudence, for it is obvious

that in publishing the letter, we were as much to blame for possible errors of taste as was its writer, and there is something piquant in the action of an authority on taste requesting an editor to publish the failure of his own glossopharyngeal apparatus. Good taste was, in days of more polished manners, considered to be shown when a person could point out the excellence in any performance, the beauty, especially the subtler forms of it, in any object of art. They never showed their good taste by showing up the bad taste of others. Taste is a matter of both sensation and reason, but many people seem to think their personal sensations sufficient, and do not trouble to exercise judgment. It is not always safe to trust to the senses. To a man with a bad cold, or a palate spoiled by too many cocktails, the best cigar is like the worst. Men are not everywhere and always capable of laying down the law as to what in conduct is beautiful, orderly, congruous, symmetrical or otherwise. Only empiric busybodies and egotistic quidnuncs presume to declare offhand and publicly whether something be refined or coarse, or in accordance with the best usage. It really cannot be done. The old definition of taste, as

a discerning sense of decent and sublime, with quick disgust from things deformed, or disarranged, or gross in species, was quite inadequate. Just as physical taste varies with the individual, so this other taste varies with societies. What is indecent in one environment is quite decent in another, and we know very well that what appears to us as deformity may be an added charm to other peoples. Taking only our own race, we find various standards of taste, and it is sheer insolence to claim that our own is the only possible criterion. There are some things on which all are agreed, things that are admittedly in very bad taste in any grade of society, but there is a wide, wide range of possibilities with regard to which it is either humbug or impudence to suggest there are any canons. Mr. WILLIAMS appealed in our columns on behalf of what he considered the most deserving case for public sympathy and help that he had ever experienced, and we unders'and he had the consent of those immediately concerned. It seems to us in the worst possible taste to publicly attack such an appeal, especially as no object could be served thereby. Supposing the original letter was an error of taste, the second (had we published it) would have been worse. It would have been on an equality with the tasteful reproof of the board-school miss, who exclaimed at a party: "Oh, Par! You make me 'shamed, eating with your knife." It is a lesson that a great many otherwise fairly cultured people have yet to learn, that everything which happens to displease us is not necessarily in bad taste. "De mortuis nil nisi bonum" is a generally accepted canon of good taste, but to speak ill of the living without sufficient necessity is a breach of morality as well as of taste.

INCIDENTAL.

(Daily Press, April 9th.)

A Hongkong Governor is not so very far from the position of a Hongkong editor after all. He cannot please everybody, and if he gets some hap'pence, it is becoming increasingly evident that he doesn't escape the kicks. In this matter of the Sanitary Commission and its various issues, we find it in our heart to condole with His Excellency, but to cheer him up a little, may

point out that his critics are skewering him in a loving way. Fancy being "inadvertently misinformed." If he had been something less than a Governor, his speech might have fared worse. The most unkind of his commentators admit it would be in bad taste to suggest that the King's Representative could be advertently misinformed, and His Excellency has room for congratulation that so far no one has presumed to allude to "the impropriety of certain utterances which have disfigured the gubernatorial oratory." Happiness being subjective, a state of mind, its formula "things might be worse," we trust that His Excellency has not permitted himself to be perturbed by the summer lightning and thunder that flickered and grumbled from the last meeting of the Sanitary Board. Possibly, if His Excellency has a sufficing sense of humour, our respectful sympathy is quite uncalled for. He may, in the proper privacy of Government House, have allowed himself the luxury of a smile or two at the public denunciations of official "tactics." We do not really think that the Chairman's appeal to the good sense of the Commission's apologists was part of a deep-laid official scheme to burke discussion. It was, if we may venture on a diagnosis, merely the Chairman's hypersensitiveness to considerations of etiquette. His appeal to Mr. HOOPER's "good sense" was an appeal to his "good taste." It seemed to him a sort of *lèse majesté* to traverse a viceregal address before it had had its formal discussion and reply in a more exalted Chamber. We have no doubt, in our own mind, that His Excellency would rather this consideration had not been so officiously put forward, especially now that it has been magnified into a further example of official obstructiveness. The King's Representative is not entitled to quite the same amount of obeisance as his Royal Master, nor is a rampant "Suffragette" entitled to all the chivalrous deference due to her sex. Let us hasten to remove any impression of odious comparison. People are so ready to misunderstand us. All we mean is this, that the King does not enter into the arena of political controversy, and his Representative here does. Doing so, and making a political speech, we do him the simple justice of admitting that he claims no immunity from reply. He would, we feel sure, have been as disappointed as anybody if the members of the Sanitary Board had not been allowed to give full expression to all that was in their minds.

JAPANESE EMIGRANTS.

(Daily Press, 10th April.)

The suggestion, which was thrown out by the Japanese Government in reference to the question of immigration of their nationals into California that, if the United States desired that it should be restricted, this could be effected; and that Japanese emigrants would be able to find a field in places in South America, where they would be more acceptable, is one of a somewhat more far-reaching character than appears upon the surface. It takes the shape of a friendly and sensible solution to a troublesome question and, considering the many difficulties constitutional and other, which surround the subject, it may be accepted as a welcome way out of an *impasse*, without too much consideration as to its ultimate bearing. It is, however, obvious that there may be many questions in the future of a difficult character, should there be a large influx of Japanese immigrants into some of the South American States. The question, of course, is which of these various States

the Japanese may have in view and until this is known it is impossible to say whether the contemplated measures would be of any political significance or not. In any of the more firmly established States it would no doubt take a very large number of Japanese or of any other immigrants to become a matter of more than economic importance. But the case would stand differently in respect to some of the smaller or weaker South American Republics, where the presence of a large number of energetic pushing Japanese would probably, before many years had elapsed, have the effect of infusing Japanese influence to such an extent that the political character of the places would be so much changed, that they would become more and more and, ultimately, almost entirely Japanese. This possibility, is apparently of a remote character; and on this account it may be too readily set aside as being outside the range of practical consideration. But at the same time the trend of events, should the Japanese emigrate in any large numbers to South America, is so obvious that it cannot be altogether overlooked by far seeing statesmen; and is certainly not likely to be lost sight of by the United States. Whether it might be better policy to offer a fair field for Japanese immigrants to California than to assist in any way towards their extending their influence in South American States is a very nice question and it is to be hoped that the matter will be duly considered and a satisfactory solution arrived at as time goes on. There is no reason why the Japanese should not be a useful element in any thoroughly established country, such as the United States, where the danger of their attaining undue political ascendancy does not exist; but a large influx of Japanese into weakly governed States is a very different matter and might easily lead to serious complications. What has taken place in the Korea and Formosa cannot be overlooked. It is certain that the Japanese have the art of gaining the ascendancy wherever it is to their interest to do so; and the danger of their attaining a dominant position in some parts of the South American continent; if they emigrate in large numbers in that direction, is therefore by no means imaginary. The United States has persistently maintained the Munro doctrine as against all European nations, and would possibly be ready to uphold it against Japan, but it is not likely that any such question would arise before the contingency to be averted had already occurred, and some one or two of the weaker South American States had virtually become Japanese. Short of this even, a large number of Japanese settled permanently in South America must of itself be a matter of considerable political significance. It would diminish the influence, which the United States has long claimed to exercise as the dominant Power on the American Continent and would give rise to questions which would require very wise handling. There has been so good an understanding between the two countries for so many years past, that it may be hoped that questions of this kind will continue to be settled amicably. But no one can ignore that they are likely to arise; and nothing can tend more to bring them about than the adoption on the part of the United States of an unreasonably exclusive attitude as to immigration of Japanese into that country. It would probably be wiser to have them as friends there, even if they competed somewhat unpleasantly in trade and labour, than as near neighbours with constantly increasing interests of a conflicting character. It is, no doubt, very difficult to get the state of California

to accept any such position. This even President ROOSEVELT's influence was insufficient to accomplish, but the United States as a whole can hardly fail to see the undesirability of adopting a position of antagonism towards a nation whose interests in the Pacific may, by wise policy, be made one with their own. This is the conclusion to which it may be hoped they will be brought by the course of events. If there is to be an acute rivalry between Japan and the United States as to their respective influence in the Pacific, the result can only be to the disadvantage of both, and their disagreeing on the subject might leave an opening to some other Power to step in with consequences that both would have reason to regret. That the two nations have increasingly large interests in this direction is only natural from their geographical position, and their wisest policy is clearly to co-operate on a basis that may be fair and acceptable to both.

CHINA'S BLESSED MEEKNESS.

(Daily Press, April 11th.)

Every now and then, willy-nilly, the missionary movement seems to force itself upon the attention of those who, not greatly in sympathy with it, would prefer to ignore it. Our Macao correspondent the other day wrote of the "indiscretion" of some who, with the best and most pious of intentions, have been "saving" children from their "pagan" parents by the process of kidnapping them. That was ill-done, from any human point of view, but the perpetrators were being cruel to be kind, hoping, believing, in their reckless way, that "somehow good may be the final goal of ill." "The widow of a recent American Consul at Shanghai is reported to have returned to New York, where she is identifying herself with slum mission. She is convinced, according to an interviewer, that she can do more good there than in China. Of American missionary workers among the Chinese, she would not offer a good opinion; she found them "a little, narrow-minded lot," and she did not blame the Chinese "for often looking down upon them." Another American widow, this time of a Minister at Peking, is not exactly a missionary, though not long ago a paragraph went the rounds of the Press stating that she had succeeded in converting the Chinese Empress-Dowager to "Christian Science." The latest reference is to her sale of valuable Chinese objects of art, described as loot from the Peking Palace, which netted nearly forty thousand dollars. This affair has been widely commented on in connection with the work of those who intrude their special tenets "among a people so advanced in religious thought as the Chinese are." One important journal bluntly wonders "what the 'heathen' Chinese will think of it all," and another anticipates "a voice of protest from a land where religion from ancient days has been inculcating peace, honesty, frugality, and philosophy." Incidentally, references to sectarian controversies provokes from another journal the remark that "some of these days the Chinese will oppose the propagation of Christianity by quoting what its rival advocates say about each other." All these references have turned up casually, without our searching for them, and doubtless we have overlooked far more. There is one other, which we have saved for the last. Our readers may remember that not many days ago we published Mr. Ku HUNG-MING's preface to his new translation of the "Doctrine of the Mean," in which the

translator defended the influence of Confucianism in China by pointing out the peacefulness and resignation of his poorer compatriots. A pro-missionary comment on this has been clipped and sent to us, which really surpasses anything else of the sort we have ever encountered. Mr. Ku's argument is "appreciated," but "it is exactly those qualities [peacefulness and resignation] that many critics would indicate as evidence of the deadening effect of the traditional Chinese religion." As those qualities are also the first aim of Christian inculcation, this admission of their "deadeness effect" is one that seems most infelicitous in the circumstances. That a typical Chinese stagnation has not overwhelmed Christendom would seem to be due, by inference, to the fact that Christendom has not taken its own principles too seriously. In support of that inference, by the way, there is no dearth of evidence.

A DOCTOR SUMMONED.

An important case was heard at the Magistrate's Court on April 10 when Dr. Wan Tun Mo, of 20 Caine Road, was summoned for having on the 11th March last, inserted a false statement in the register of deaths concerning Ng Sik Kwan. Sergt. O'Sullivan prosecuted on behalf of the police, and the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai appeared for the defence.

The case for the prosecution was that on the 11th March a boy, 15 years old, died in D'Aguilar Street. The father went to defendant and told him that he wanted to have the body removed in order to quieten his mother who was grief stricken. Defendant filled up a form and the body was conveyed to the Tung Wa Hospital whence it was removed to the Public Mortuary where, on a postmortem examination being made on the body by Dr. Heanley, the cause of death was found to have been diphtheria, and not phthisis.

A doctor in the Tung Wa Hospital said the certificate was handed over to him, but that was not for the purpose of registering the death. He produced a form which he had sent to the Hospital for the purpose of the burial of the body.

Cross-examined - Who informed you that the boy died of this disease? - The father.

Dr. Wan has practised as a medical man for some years? - Yes.

Did you regard this certificate as information? - Yes.

Why did you not forward this document with yours to the hospital? - Because I preferred to believe the father.

His Worship - He filled up the form from information given to him? - Yes, information given by the father.

Sergt. O'Sullivan - Yes, Your Worship, but the father is not in the medical profession. Defendant had certain reasons for asking the questions which the father answered.

An acting house surgeon from the Tung Wa Hospital spoke to receiving a requisition from the dispensary in Aberdeen Street to have the body removed to the hospital. The body was received and afterwards forwarded to the public mortuary.

Dr. Heanley, medical officer in charge of the public mortuary, stated he had made a post mortem examination of the body of the boy in question and found that death was due to diphtheria. He had no recollection of the case. He relied on his notes - Cross-examined - The mistake might be a legitimate one.

Sergt. O'Sullivan asked if the Court would direct that defendant put in his prescription book.

His Worship said he would not make such an order.

r. Ho Kai (to prosecutor) - Do you wish the defendant to prove your case for you?

The question of adjournment was afterwards discussed. Dr. Ho Kai contended that there was no case against his client, and his Worship said that, so far as he could see, there was no case at present against the defendant. He would, however, like to hear the father's evidence, and he would adjourn the case until April 15th when the father should be brought to Court.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Minutes of a monthly meeting of the General Committee held in the Chamber Room, St. George's Building, on Friday, 27th March, 1908, at 4 P.M. Present: - Mr. A. G. Wood (Acting Chairman) Hon. Mr. Henry Keswick, Hon. Mr. Murry Stewart, Messrs. D. R. Law, H. E. Tomkins, E. Shellim, A. Fuchs, G. Friesland and E. A. M. Williams (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the last monthly meeting of 10th February and of the special meetings held on the 18th, 22nd and 24th February, and 11th March, 1908, were read and confirmed.

FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION.

The following letter was read: -

Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong.

21st February, 1908.

SIR, - I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 16th January (No. 9357/06) having reference to the suggestion of Sir C. Clementi Smith that, in view of the importance of the Exhibition and in the interest taken in the matter by the French Colonies, this Colony should re-consider its former decision.

My Committee do not consider that sufficient support will be forthcoming to justify them appointing a Committee of organization.

They are of opinion that, unless the Government is prepared to vote the necessary fund, the matter should be allowed to drop.

I have &c.,

Sgd. E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

HON. MR. F. H. MAY, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMMERCIAL EXAMINATION.

The following correspondence was read: -

Education Department,

Hongkong, 18th February, 1908.

SIR - In reply to your letter forwarding the proposals of the Commercial Education Department of the Chamber of Commerce for the establishment in this Colony of a centre for the examination of pupils from local Schools and Colleges in commercial subjects and the subsequent granting of certificates, and requesting my views on the subject I beg to inform you that it appears to me, in view of the recent establishment of the Hongkong Technical Institute which gives instruction in most of the subjects referred to in the syllabus of the Chamber and issues certificates to successful candidates, unnecessary for the local Chamber to institute examinations on lines exactly similar and with the same object as those already in existence. In this connection I would suggest that the Chamber might in lieu of instituting its own examination extend its collective support (individual members have already done so) to the Institute and ensure preference in the selection of clerks in mercantile houses to those who hold the certificates and possibly later the contemplated diploma of the Institute.

2. I attach a table showing how far the subject of examinations in the London Chamber of Commerce syllabus are subjects in which instructions is given locally, at the Technical Institute and in the more important schools of the Colony.

3. I further attach a copy of the regulations and the prospectus of the Technical Institute for your information.

I have &c.,

Sgd. E. D. C. WOLFE,
Inspector of Schools.

The Hon. E. A. HEWETT,
Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce.
Enclosures were laid on the table.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
29th February, 1908.

SIR, - I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd October last regarding the scheme of Commercial Education promoted by your Chamber and inviting the assistance of this Chamber in that important work.

My Committee fully recognise the importance and necessity attaching to a sound commercial education as the means of advancement and a successful career in the business world.

After very careful consideration the Committee of this Chamber regret that they cannot give themselves the pleasure of applying for the formation of a local centre in view of the fact that a Technical Institute is already established in this Colony which gives instruction in most of the subjects contained in the syllabus forwarded by you.

Further, the number of Candidates who may present themselves for the examinations would not, in the opinion of my Committee, be very great, as it is very questionable whether the importance attaching at home to the Commercial certificates would be similarly regarded in this Colony.

Very few British youths are with their parents out here and the majority of person who would present themselves for the examinations would be those who are permanently resident in the Colony and it therefore follows that the usefulness of the certificates would be of lesser degree than would be the case if the Colony contained many young men who would be likely to take the examinations and return home.

My Committee desire me to convey to you their thanks for inviting the co-operation of this Chamber and regret very much that in this instance they are unable to assist in a movement, which, on the face of it, has every thing to commend it.

I am, &c.,

Sgd. E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
London Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
29th February, 1908.

E. D. C. WOLFE, Esq.,

President.

DEAR SIR, - I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant in which you state your views with reference to the establishment of a local centre for the examination of pupils who may present themselves for the London Chamber of Commerce Commercial Examinations.

My Committee are now writing to the London Chamber in reply, expressing regret that this Chamber does not consider it advisable, in view of the fact that a Technical Institute has already been established in this Colony which practically covers the ground to apply for the formation of a local centre.

My Committee desire me to convey their thanks to you for the valued advice you have given them.

I am, &c.,

Sgd. E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

PRIVATE MOORING BUOYS IN THE HARBOUR.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
26th February, 1908.

SIR, - I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th ult. (No. 6322/1905) in which you give further information as to the reasons which have induced the Government to suggest that the owners of moorings should notify the Harbour Master when their buoys are vacant and when next they expect to use them.

The Statements contained in paragraphs 2 and 3 of your letter under acknowledgement, while conveying much interesting information, do not, in the opinion of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, appear to bring forward any argument in favour of the proposed change.

The figures presented by the Government do not alter the fact that in the past, buoy owners in general have not received applications from non-buoy owners for the use of their property when not in use by themselves nor do they prove that the statement made by this Chamber is incorrect, viz: that had such application been received by buoy owners they would have consented to the use of their property when not required for their own business.

My Committee endorse the Government's interest in the important minority who are not buoy owners. They do not, however, approve of the great inconvenience the Government's proposal would entail on still more important

majority. It appears to this Chamber that the obligation to secure buoy accommodation should rest with the lesser interest—the important minority who have not expended capital in laying down moorings. It may be taken for granted that the majority represent the pioneers of shipping in the Colony, and that the minority consist almost entirely of competitive owners who come and go as suits their interests. While this latter statement may not carry much weight with the Government the Committee of this Chamber consider that it is a point worthy of the Government's earnest consideration in view of the fact that their proposal would be placing responsibility and inconvenience on the majority, who are the regular traders to and from the Colony, which this Chamber consider would be unfair and unjust.

My Committee have read with considerable interest the list forwarded by the Government of Owners and Agents who have complained of their inability to secure the use of moorings.

Speaking on behalf of the members of this Committee who are buoy owners, I am directed to state most emphatically that in no single instance have they been approached by the complainants for accommodation, and I am further instructed to state that, had they taken trouble to do so, in no case would permission have been refused where owners were in a position to grant the facility.

My Committee have given further careful consideration to the Government's renewal representations, and are unanimously of opinion that any change in the present system is unworkable unless the Government take over all the leases, moorings and buoys. A system which involves inconvenient obligation on the buoy owners to keep the Harbour Master constantly supplied with information when their buoys are vacant and again when they are required; a system which guarantees that when the latter notification is made the Harbour Master undertakes to have buoys ready for use by their owners; a system which must lend itself constantly to a sort of "general post" at most inconvenient times is bound to lead to great dissatisfaction all round. Indeed, in the opinion of my Committee the important minority would be the first to disapprove of the Government's proposal if it was explained to them and their opinion asked.

The disadvantages which the "important minority" complain of are trivial, and I am directed by my Committee to say that in their opinion the Government need have no apprehension that the very slight inconvenience they refer to will make the Port unpopular or drive trade away.

The present system has well worked in the past, and there is no reason why it should work better in the future if non-buoy owners will only take the trouble either to ask buoy owners for the use of their property or notify the Harbour Master that they are desirous of securing buoy accommodation and the length of time the convenience is required. In such cases the Harbour Master can readily enquire of buoy owners and ascertain if it is possible to conveniently arrange the facility.

In conclusion I am instructed to say that my Committee appreciate and confirm the Government's belief in the anxiety of the Committee of this Chamber to at all times second in every way the efforts of the Government to promote the interests of the port, but they regret that on this occasion they are unable to acquiesce in the Government's proposals which they believe to be unnecessary and, if adopted, are likely to prove extremely vexatious.

I have &c.,
Sgd. E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Keswick said that probably the Chamber would be requested by the Government to express a further opinion on this subject.

SUPREME COURT VACATIONS.

The following correspondence was read:—

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
29th February, 1908.

SIR,—I am directed by my Committee to say, that notwithstanding any further correspondence that has passed, my Committee are

still unalterably of opinion that the proposed increase in the Supreme Court Vacations is not in the best interests of the Colony generally, and have no reason to change the views expressed in their letter of the 19th instant.

I have &c.,
Sgd. E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

Hongkong, 4th March, 1908.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce,

SIR,—Referring to my letter to you of the 22nd ultimo, I beg to forward you copy of the resolutions which were passed at a meeting of the Law Society held on the 2nd March, 1908. I am to add that they were not passed unanimously.

I have &c.,
Sgd. A. H. G. JACKSON,
Hon. Secretary.

Enclos re.

1—That the extension of the Christmas and Easter Vacation as mentioned in the letter of His Honour the Chief Justice dated the 7th August, 1907, should be agreed to.

2—That the Long Vacation should be extended and that such Vacations should begin 1st August and end 30th September, subject however, to adequate provision being made in respect of the following matters:—

(a) That the Long Vacation should not effect time running for appearance under specially endorsed Writs, and that application for Summary Judgement should be permitted to be made as if no Vacation existed, the usual Summons days being available for the purpose.

(b) That the Long Vacation should not apply to Bankruptcy proceedings.

(c) That the whole of the business and work of the Courts should proceed in the usual way (except the actual trial of actions and the delivery of pleadings) and that all applicants the Court for injunctions and other matters should, as far as possible, be dealt with in Chambers.

(d) That during the Long Vacation and immediately preceding and subsequent thereto (in the absence of Counsel retained in a particular case or matters) the solicitors engaged in such case or matter should have full right of audience in open Court in the same manner and in the same extent as if they were Counsel engaged in the case or matter.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
10th March, 1908.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant enclosing copy of the resolutions which were passed at a Meeting of your Society held on the 2nd instant.

I have &c.,
Sgd. E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Hon. Secretary, Hongkong Law Society.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
10th March, 1908.

SIR,—Referring to your letter of the 19th ultimo, I am directed to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a letter from His Honour the Chief Justice in which he asks for the names of the signatories to the enclosure to your letter under reference.

I am &c.,
Sgd. F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Chamber of Commerce,

Enclosure.

Chambers, Supreme Court,
6th March, 1908.

SIR,—In your Excellency's letter received yesterday on the subject of the Rule of Court extending the Long Vacation, a letter from the Chamber of Commerce is enclosed which contains a letter addressed to the Chamber purporting to be "signed by eight Solicitors" firms representing half of the firms in Hongkong. As the signatures are not appended to the copy of this letter annexed in Your Excellency's letter to me, I should be glad to be informed of the names of these eight firms, if they are given. I should be glad if Your

Excellency would request the Secretary of the Chamber to supply them.

I have &c.,
Sgd. F. T. PIGGOTT,
Chief Justice.

His Excellency,
Sir Frederick Lugard, K.C.M.G.,
Governor, Hongkong.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
12th March, 1908.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant (No. 9203/1907) covering copy of a letter from His Honour the Chief Justice to His Excellency the Governor in which the former expresses a desire that the signatures to the letter received by the Chamber from eight Solicitors' firms should be submitted to him.

I am to state that the letter in question was written in confidence to assist my Committee in arriving at an opinion on the matter of the Supreme Court Vacation when the Government honoured the Chamber by requesting its views on the subject.

I am to state further that my Committee fail to see that, having published the letter, the addition of the signatories could be of interest to those for whom the publication was intended. My Committee therefore regret that under the circumstances they are unable to furnish the information now required.

In order, however, that His Excellency the Governor may be satisfied that the document in question is authentic, I am authorised to show it to him or his representative (other than the present applicant) for His Excellency's information, if such is desired.

I have &c.,
Sgd. E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
16th March, 1908.

SIR,—Referring to your letter of the 12th instant on the subject of the letter addressed by eight Solicitors' firms to your Chamber, His Excellency the Governor directs me to state that he is quite satisfied with the authenticity of any letter sent to him by the Chamber and that he does not need ocular evidence.

I am, &c.,
Sgd. F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

NEW TYPHOON REFUGE.

The following letter from the Government was read:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
11th March, 1908.

SIR,—It will be within the recollection of the Chamber of Commerce that in 1904 this Government referred to them the proposal to construct a new Typhoon Refuge at Mongkoktsui, and that the Chamber in reply advocated the Refuge should be situated at Cheung-Sha-Wan.

2 Since the typhoon of 18th September, 1906, the question has been again before the Government and the Typhoon Relief Committee, the Chinese Stevedores and the Public Works Committee having declared themselves in favour of a Refuge at Mongkoktsui, a detailed estimate of the cost of the latter has been prepared. The former estimate was only a rough calculation at a given price per foot run to enable a comparison to be made between the cost of several breakwaters at different sites that had been suggested, and it is estimated that making provision for increased solidity due to the experience of the typhoon of 1908 and for considerable advance in prices, a breakwater at Mongkoktsui to enclose 166 acres of sheltered water will cost \$1,540,000.

3 This scheme has been considered by the Public Works Committee whose report thereon is enclosed. It will be observed that they recommend the scheme and further suggest that pending its construction the accommodation in the Causeway Bay Shelter be increased by deepening the area therein which dries at low water.

This latter will be undertaken forthwith at an estimated cost of \$70,000.

4 The total estimated cost of these improvements is \$1,610,000, and inasmuch as they will

largely benefit the shipping which frequents the port by affording greater protection to all classes of cargo boats and lighters and by obviating the delays, which as pointed out in your predecessor's letter of the 16th July, 1904, are occasioned by the necessary early cessation of work of cargo boats and lighters which on the first warning of a typhoon have to seek shelter lest they be shut out of the inadequate refuge at Causeway Bay, the Governor deems it reasonable that portion of the cost should be recovered from a special tax on shipping.

5 In these circumstances the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has decided to ask the sanction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to defray half the cost out of the Colony's Reserves and at the same time His Excellency proposes to temporarily increase Light Dues on Ocean going vessels to 2½ cents per ton and on River steamers to five-sixths of a cent per ton for each entry by day or by night as from the 1st June next, such increased rates to be maintained until the receipts from the addition of 1½ cents imposed in the one case and of ½ cent per ton for each entry by day or by night in the other, aggregate the sum of half the cost of the improvements detailed above.

It would have perhaps been more logical to call the increase by the new name of Harbour Dues, but it is considered more desirable and convenient to make no change in nomenclature although the service for which the additional dues are imposed is not connected with the lighting of the Harbour.

6 His Excellency the Governor trust that your Chamber will recognise the reasonableness of the procedure which he proposes to adopt in order to enable a large work to be undertaken which will facilitate the uninterrupted loading and discharging of vessels in this port, and will safeguard the lives of thousands of men upon whose labour such work depends.

I am &c.,

Sgd. F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Chamber of Commerce.

Enclosures were laid on the table.

The letter from the Government was discussed. The Committee were strongly of opinion that the proposed expenditure of public funds was excessive and that sufficient protection against typhoon could be built at much less cost than the gubernatorial proposals.

UPPER INDIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
REGISTRATION OF TRADE MARKS
AND DESIGNS.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
27th February, 1908.

The Secretary,
Upper India Chamber of Commerce,
Cawnpore, India.

DEAR SIR.—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th January having reference to the Register which has been opened in your Chamber for the purpose of registering Trade Marks and Designs.

In reply my Committee are glad to be of service to your Chamber by giving publicity to the above matter, and I have to thank you on their behalf for placing this information before them.

I am, &c.,

Sgd. E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

SURVEYS ON PIECE GOODS.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
26th March 1908.

WALTER SPEAKMAN Esq.,
Secretary,
Chamber of Commerce,
Manchester.

DEAR SIR.—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd December last on the subject of Surveys on Piece Goods.

My Committee are quite in sympathy with the views expressed in your letter under reply, and they are agreed that any irrelevant matter which may be brought in by Arbitrators in their awards is irregular but they are aware only of a few instances in which this has been the case and in these cases by special request of the parties concerned who ask not only

or a settlement of specific points but a report for the survey generally.

You will of course understand that surveys on certain goods bring up points which may apparently be extraneous to the matter in dispute but without which the award, by itself, would be incomplete, and in many cases would not form a sufficient basis for settlement between the parties interested.

My Committee will be glad to enquire into any specific cases to which any Members of your Chamber may take exception, if you will bring them to the notice of this Chamber, and in cases which appear justifiable will use their influence towards the exclusion of any points but those specifically contained in the reference.

I am, &c.,
(Sgd.) E. A. M. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

YARN.

The recent press articles concerning the action of the Japanese Yarn Merchants in seeking to artificially foster the Japanese Yarn trade to the detriment of the Indian Yarn trade by means of a lottery were discussed.

It was decided that the only manner of dealing with such questionable methods of trading was through diplomatic channels per media of the principal Chambers at home, such as London, Manchester, Liverpool, Bradford, Glasgow, &c., and to ask the good offices of such Chambers.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
30th March, 1908.

SIR.—At a Meeting of the Committee of this Chamber held on the 27th instant, an instance of the, unfortunately, well-known unfair trade methods adopted by some Japanese Merchants came up for discussion.

The enclosed press cuttings include, what this Chamber is assured, is a correct translation of a circular recently issued to Chinese Yarn Merchants in this Colony by the Japan Cotton Spinners' Association. My Committee are led to believe that the scheme first originated in the Settlement of Shanghai, and that the prizes offered were money prizes. The Court of Consuls declaring this to be a lottery the Association notified the Yarn Merchants of the Northern Port that the prizes would be in kind i.e. Yarn.

The conditions of the lottery are fully set forth in the translation of the circular.

My Committee desire to bring to the notice of the principal Chambers of Commerce of Great Britain the fact that the yearly Yarn imports of the port of Hongkong are roughly valued at \$25,000,000 Mexican Dollars and that of this large amount 90 per cent is Indian and 10 per cent the Japanese article.

The British firms conducting this important branch of the Empire's trade do not fear fair competition, but they strongly represented to this Chamber that the proposed lottery is calculated to appeal to the gambling instincts of the Chinese Merchants engaged in the Yarn trade, and to artificially foster the Japanese trade to the detriment of the Indian trade.

My Committee therefore hope that your Chamber will assist this Chamber by strongly protesting through the usual diplomatic channels, and requesting the assistance of His Majesty's Government in the protection of British trade.

I have &c.,

Sgd. E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
London Chamber of Commerce,
London.

Similar letters were also sent to the Liverpool, Bradford, Manchester and Glasgow Chambers of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
8th April, 1908.

SIR.—I am directed to request you to be good enough to lay before your Committee the enclosed copy of a letter which this Chamber has forwarded to the following Chambers of Commerce in Great Britain, viz:—London, Liverpool, Manchester, Bradford, and Glasgow.

The letter, to ether with the accompanying press cuttings fully set forth a serious grievance which the importers of Indian Yarn at this port consider they have against the Japan Cotton Spinners' Association.

My Committee feel that they can rely upon the co-operation of your Chamber in this matter and trust your Committee will join them in seeking the aid of the principal Chambers in Great Britain in their endeavour to protect so important a branch of British trade.

My Committee are also requesting the support of the Tientsin Chamber.

I am, &c.,

Sgd. E. A. H. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Shanghai Chamber of Commerce,
Shanghai.

A similar letter was addressed to the Tientsin Chamber of Commerce.

COMMITTEE.

Mr. Medhurst's resignation consequent upon his leaving for home was regretted.

Mr. D. R. Law proposed that Mr. A. Babington of Messrs. Shewan Thomas & Co., should be invited to fill the vacancy. Mr. Keswick seconded and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Wood said that as he was shortly leaving for home he must place his resignation in the hands of the Committee and wished the Chamber every success for the future.

Mr. D. R. Law expressed the deep regret of the Members of the Committee that they were about to lose the much valued services of a old a Member as Mr. Wood. Mr. Wood had been closely connected with the Chamber for 9 years. He had been Chairman in 1895 and Vice-Chairman in 1893 and 1905 to 1908, and had also occupied very high public offices in the Northern Port of Shanghai.

The deep interest Mr. Wood had always taken in public and commercial affairs and the knowledge he possessed of these rendered his services to the Chamber almost invaluable. (Applause.)

Mr. Tomkins proposed that Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar should be invited to fill the vacancy caused by the regretted resignation of Mr. Wood.

Mr. D. R. Law seconded. Carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Mr. Tomkins, that the Hon. Mr. Henry Keswick be asked to take the Chair. Carried.

Mr. Keswick thanked the Committee and said he was leaving the Colony about June until that time the Chamber could be assured of his best services.

This concluded the business before the Meeting.

SIR THOMAS JACKSON.

The Imperial Bank of Persia is fortunate in securing Sir Thomas Jackson to succeed the late Sir Lepel Griffin as Chairman. Sir Thomas is of course new to Persian affairs; but the qualities which go to success in banking in oriental countries are the same all over the East. And there is no doubt that Sir Thomas is one of the greatest bankers who has pushed British commerce abroad. There are difficult times ahead of the Imperial Bank, which will demand all the skill of its directors. Great Britain is also closely interested in the prosperity of the Bank, for it is the only great commercial agency working in the country, and commerce and politics are interwoven in Persia. It is a singular fact that the working of the Bank last year, when the country was seriously disturbed and the functions of government seemed to be suspended, was one of the most profitable in its history. If ability and experience count, Sir Thomas should be able to maintain this prosperity.—Times of India.

A dispute between the Cantonese and Hakkas took place at Kowloon-chai the other day. About fifty men on each side armed with bamboos belaboured each other for some time. A Hakka lad was injured and had to be taken to the hospital by P. C. Perkins of Yaumati. Two of his assailants appeared before Mr. J. B. Wood at the Magistracy on Saturday and were fined \$10 each or 16 days in prison.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

THE AMENDING ORDINANCE.

A special meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on April 6th, at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (president), presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham (vice-president), Captain Lyons, Hon. Mr. Irvine, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. H. Humphreys, Mr. H. A. W. Slade, Mr. Lau Chu-pak, and Dr. W. W. Pearse (Medical Officer of Health), Dr. Macfarlane, (assistant M.O.H.) and Mr. Messer (Secretary.)

The PRESIDENT said:—The business before the meeting this afternoon is the discussion of a minute on the Bill amending the Public Health and Building Ordinance. During the morning I received from one of the unofficial members of the Board a report from two of the local firms of architects which I understand includes the greater part of the criticisms of the unofficial members of the Board. In the concluding paragraph of this letter from the architects they state:—"We would suggest an interview at which we could meet the Honourable Colonial Secretary and Director of Public Works to discuss the technical points raised in this bill, and it might possibly result in most of our proposals being adopted before the bill is read a second time". I believe it is the wish of the unofficial members not to consider this bill until after such interview has been held. With reference to Mr. Lau Chu-pak's minute on the bill it will be necessary for the Board to have an expert Medical Officer as one of its members. The duties of the Medical Officer of Health are specially laid down in the standing orders and they are practically the same as those drawn up by the Local Government Board at home. I very much doubt if there is any difference from those drawn up for the guidance of the Medical Officer of Health at Shanghai. These can be obtained, only it must be remembered that at Shanghai the same officer practically combines the two positions of Medical Officer of Health and bacteriologist. With reference to the business, all matters that are strictly not of a routine nature are submitted to the Board. I have been president since 1897 and have submitted all matters to the Board in the same way as was done before the passing of the Ordinance 23 of 1903. Indeed the order of business is distinctly laid down in the Standing Orders. With regard to the letter from the Government forwarding a copy of the Hansard speech made by His Excellency on the amending bill I understand this was sent for the information of members of the board as a correct copy of what he said and it was not intended that there should be any discussion of the speech by members of the Board before it had been debated in the Legislative Council. If any member wishes to speak on this speech I do not intend to rule him out of order but would leave it to the sense of members whether it would not be better to postpone any criticism until after the speech has been considered in the Legislative Council.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—Do I understand that this meeting is to be postponed? I mean to say if we are not to speak about anything I suppose the only other thing is to adjourn the meeting.

The PRESIDENT—Am I correct in saying that this report practically incorporates the greater part of the criticisms of unofficial members and it is not the wish of unofficial members to consider the bill until after their suggestion has been carried out?

Mr. HOOPER—With regard to the allusion that you have made to this report I think it would be well to state exactly how this report comes into your hands. After the Bill was presented to the Legislative Council and read a first time the European landowners met and adopted a course similar to what they did in 1902 when the principal Ordinance was brought before the Legislative Council, and employed local architects to criticise the technical details of the bill. In this case they employed Messrs Leigh and Orange and Messrs Palmer and Turner and those gentlemen made their report to the land-owners' committee which met on Saturday. I presided over that meeting and was requested to send a copy to the Government and a copy to the Sanitary Board. That is how you get it officially. To save time

I have supplied each of the members of the Legislative Council and of the Sanitary Board with a copy. With regard to the covering letter from the architects and more particularly with regard to the last clause I pointed out that for convenience I sent up the report at once but it must not be taken to include all the amendments we might consider necessary. I have had no acknowledgment of that yet. Of course it was sent rather late on Saturday afternoon. I do not know what view the Government might take of the architects' suggestion as to the interview, but if the Government acquiesce in that then the discussion on the technical points of the bill may well stand over. Coming back to the other part of your speech, that the Governor's speech was not intended for criticism, I would in no way wish to harass or embarrass the Government by criticising any remarks made by His Excellency unless I think these remarks may have a bearing on the consideration of certain sections, and bearing that in mind, and also in justification of the Commission which performed certain duties, and which His Excellency states has been exceeded, I feel that in justice—recognised by every Englishman—that His Excellency would allow any member of the Commission on behalf of the Commission to justify its actions if they were able to produce good evidence and show that His Excellency had been inadvertently misinformed. With that object in view it would be necessary for me in justifying ourselves to refer to certain documents which were of a confidential nature. I have the authority and permission of His Excellency the Governor to use whatever papers or communications I may think proper provided it is not to the disadvantage of the public interest of the Colony. I certainly would not exceed that. I therefore think it will be necessary for me to correct one or two statements in that and I purpose to address my remarks now to one or two of them. If the Board as a Board think such a course is improper then I am willing not to proceed but unless the Board as a Board think so I think it is fair that we should endeavour to justify ourselves from one or two aspersions cast upon us.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—Personally, I am only one member of the Board but I think it would be somewhat improper to introduce these points in the discussion at this Board. The copy of the speech made by His Excellency was sent to us in order that members might have an accurate report of what His Excellency said on that occasion as there were various mistakes in the reports which appeared in the ordinary daily papers. I think it would be somewhat out of place for the members of the Board at this time to discuss His Excellency's speech.

Mr. HOOPER—I do not leave it to any individual member of the Board and I would therefore ask you to take a vote as to the wishes of the Board. In the event of the vote going against us we should have to adopt other means for our justification, for not only has it been sent to this Board but it has been published in every newspaper. These charges must be refuted somehow, therefore I would ask you to take a vote.

Mr. SLADE—I think Mr. Shelton Hooper does not really intend to criticise the speech of the Governor. He wishes to explain certain remarks made by His Excellency and to show that they were based, as he said, on "misinformation." It is not exactly criticism.

The PRESIDENT—As I have said I do not intend personally as president to rule Mr. Hooper, or any other member who may speak on this subject, out of order. I do not think it is a matter on which to take a vote. I think we are justified in leaving it to the good sense of Mr. Hooper to make any remarks he thinks fit.

Mr. HOOPER—I thank you, Sir. I will try to correct these points and give no offence to any member and particularly to His Excellency. His Excellency said:—"I would first remind you of the history and constitution of the Commission whose report may be said to be the immediate precedent cause of the present legislation. Complaints had been made by the unofficial members of the Sanitary Board and others that the hands of some of the subordinates of the staff of the Sanitary Department were not as clean as they might be, and that

bribery and corruption existed. The idea was conceived by my predecessor of appointing the unofficial members of the Sanitary Board to investigate those charges, more especially because those who were accused were government officials. The terms of reference to the committee were expanded into an inquiry into the administration of the sanitary law." My reply to that, Sir, is the invitation I received from the Governor on the 24th April, 1906, which invited me to serve as a member of the Committee which His Excellency had appointed to investigate complaints in reference to the administration of the existing Public Health and Building Ordinance. His Excellency goes on to say that the "report of the Commission gradually assumed the form of a severe criticism both of the past and present action of the Government." It included matters which had been settled by the Secretary of State but as there were no officials sitting on the Commission who were familiar with the correspondence between the Government and the Secretary of State who might therefore have been able to correct misapprehensions, old controversies were awakened." On that point, Sir, I would say that the Commission was appointed under the Commission Act. Under that Ordinance every officer of the Government including His Excellency was bound to attend before us and give us what documents we wanted in case we requisitioned them. His Excellency, of course, if he was displeased with our action, could have wiped out the Commission with a stroke of the pen but he did not do so. Without divulging any details I may say that the Commission did see the despatches of the Governor to the Secretary of State and the despatches of the Secretary of State to the Governor. These despatches were obtained and the information obtained in the usual way through the permission of Sir Matthew Nathan. That point can be verified on reference to the documents. The Governor says further on, "I speak of some only of their proposals, nor do I think that they represent the wishes of the entire community." With that I agree. No proposal ever made in this Colony would meet with the approval of the entire community. We then come to His Excellency's suggestion that the Medical Officer of Health should have a seat on the Board, but as that will come up in discussion on the constitution of the Board I think we might possibly leave it till then. The Governor incidentally refers to analogous matters about the chairman of a company being removed from his post by Directors. Well, His Excellency was a little wrong, for the directors would have no power without consulting the shareholders and altering the Articles of Association. He then deals with the proposed head of the Sanitary Department and said:—"He will be responsible for the proper spending of the votes for the Sanitary Department under the control of the Treasury and of the Audit Department. The appointment however of the new head of the Department which is provided for in this bill does not in any way diminish the very large powers which the Ordinance confers on the Sanitary Board." Then the proposed estimates will be laid before us and he also proposes that the head of the Sanitary Department shall consult the Sanitary Board on any suggested changes in giving effect to Sanitary by-laws; that he shall inform the Board of any change in the organisation of the staff; that he shall inform them regarding any recommendations for appointment, leave or dismissal of the European staff; and that he shall lay before them any complaint of the public regarding the staff." It is the opinion of the Commissioners that the Sanitary Board should have unrestricted power of spending the entire sum voted for the sanitation of the Colony. I would now reply from our report:—"We would however remind your Excellency that we have not suggested any change in the constitution of the Board which should remain as at present. What we do propose is that the administrative head of the department be transferred. The control of the finances remains as at present in the hands of the Government." I think it is quite clear that His Excellency must have misread our recommendations. His Excellency goes on to say that the Commission also suggested that

the Board should have the power to appoint and dismiss officers. Our recommendation was that we considered the present system of dealing with this class of Government officers was far from satisfactory. We think all inspectors and officers of minor grade should be engaged on a monthly agreement when it would be perfectly easy for His Excellency to get rid of any undesirable servant, or if it is desirable to engage them on similar terms as members of the police force. You will see, Sir, we never suggested appointing to His Excellency. I will content myself with what I have just said so far as the Governor's speech is concerned until we come to the details in the other portions. Having thought it necessary to vindicate ourselves and justify our actions I beg to repeat most emphatically that it is with no want of respect to His Excellency for whom we have all the greatest regard and who I am quite sure is wishing to do the best possible for the whole of the Colony and the whole of the community.

The PRESIDENT—Having heard what Mr. Hooper stated with reference to this report of the architects, is it the wish of the members that we discuss the bill this afternoon or shall we postpone the discussion?

Mr. HOOPER—That report deals only with the technical part. The architects have not attempted to interfere with certain principles. There are two or three principles in the bill which we could go on with. One is the constitution of the Board. The bill proposes the severing from the jurisdiction of the Board certain powers and handing them over to the building authority. This point I think might be taken and we also want a discussion as to the proposed Sanitary Department.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—It seems to me at this stage important that we should consider what is omitted from the bill as much as what is in it. It is important because it will be the only communication to the members of the Legislative Council of our views. Of course the report by the architects will give the members all the technical knowledge they may wish to have in regard to the bill as proposed by the Government and any remarks I may have to make will be confined to what is omitted from the bill. I shall simply say in passing that with the proposed constitution of the Board and transfer of certain duties to the Director of Public Works I am in agreement except in so far as a vote to the Medical Officer of Health is concerned. Only one point occurs to me, that the powers of the Director of Public Works are somewhat autocratic. For instance, the Building Authority can dictate to an owner the number of rooms he should have in a house. I say that the appeal from the Building Authority should be to the Sanitary Board and not to the Governor in Council, because that appeal is like an appeal from Caesar to Caesar, and amounts to no appeal at all. I will go on with what is omitted from the bill. The Government have ignored the recommendations of the Commissioners in regard to section 175 of the ground that the Commissioners exceeded their powers, but in connection with many other similar clauses where the Commissioners gave more or less similar advice the Government have debated their views and in some cases accepted their recommendations. The result of ignoring section 175 is that we shall be, as we have been, in possession of laws acting retrospectively which force on owners the costly reconstructions amounting to twenty per cent of the capital value of the property without one single penny of compensation. The Director of Public Works in course of cross-examination before the Commission admitted that in cases where the property was mortgaged to four-fifths of its value it was equivalent to Government confiscation. That is to say the whole margin of twenty per cent. was lost. If the owners received any extra rental for the enormous outlay there would be no very great hardship, but far from this being the case they received less rental than before because they had less accommodation to give. The question naturally arises: Why did the Government ignore all reference to sub-section 1, section 175? The answer can only be—because it involved the Government in enormous liabilities and the Government preferred to

throw the whole of these liabilities on the landlords of the Colony. But if the Government think they are not going to lose anything then it is very mistaken policy indeed, because they will lose indirectly if not directly through the fall in the market price of property in Hongkong. But the same reason would not apply to sub-section 2. The Commissioners drew attention to the ambiguous wording of this section but neither the Medical Officer of Health nor the Director of Public Works when cross examined by the Commissioners were able to explain what this section meant. Either the M. O. H. or the Director of Public Works will have to adjudicate as to the meaning of this sub-section. I have one word to say in conclusion, and I feel rather diffident about saying it, after the President's remark, but as the statement to which I refer was made by His Excellency in public, the only opportunity of answering it is in public. His Excellency gave as his reason for not carrying out some of the recommendations that the commission was not representative. In the sense that no high officer of any service was on the commission or the head of any "Princely House" the commission was not representative but I think in view of the hard work of the commissioners the remark was somewhat uncalled for. In the sense that the commission consisted of two Chinese appointed by His Excellency to represent the whole Chinese community, one Englishman appointed by His Excellency to represent the foreign community, and two members elected by the ratepayers of Hongkong, the statement was not even founded on fact. His Excellency has been uniformly kind and courteous since he came to Hongkong and it makes it a little more difficult to reconcile one's self to the solitary instance to the contrary.

The VICE PRESIDENT—Just one or two remarks made by Mr. Humphreys to which I would like to make reply. In the first place he said this new bill conferred very great powers on the Building Authority in so far as it even permitted him to dictate the number of rooms allowed in a house. Well, Sir, the foundation for that clause in the new bill is the report by the committee which considered the cubicle question and in that report paragraph seven states the Building Authority should have power by law to require that in no case should a certain number of subdivisions be exceeded on a floor. That committee consisted of the Colonial Secretary, myself, the Medical Officer of Health and five unofficial members, so that the officials in that case were in a distinct minority. With regard to the appeal to the Governor in Council I cannot quite understand what the objection to it is. I presume it is because I have a seat on the Executive Council, but I have also a seat on this Board. If my powers of persuasion are so great in the case of the Executive Council it may be assumed that they would be equally great when I come before this Board (laughter), but perhaps the members of the Board are more stubborn (laughter).

Mr. HOOPER—You have only to convince one man in the Executive Council. It is not taken by a majority.

The VICE PRESIDENT—Oh, yes as a rule. Section 175 has been amended already by the passing of Ordinance 107 of 1907, which made a very important modification in the powers contained in that section. With regard to the case which he specifically referred to, where he stated I admitted it amounted to confiscation, my statement was that on the facts as stated by Mr. Humphreys that would amount to confiscation, but of course whether these facts were as stated was not within my knowledge.

The PRESIDENT—If no other member has any general remarks to make on the bill I would move the suspension of the standing orders to allow the Board to go into Committee.

Mr. HOOPER—I do not think we ought to go into Committee in this. There are questions of principles to discuss.

The PRESIDENT—It simply allows freer discussion and less formality.

The Board then went into committee to consider the principles alluded to by Mr. Hooper, the first being the constitution of the Board, as dealt with in section 4 of the Amending Ordinance.

Mr. HOOPER, after reading the section said:—The difficulty which arises in the consideration

of this subject is that we have no definition of the words Sanitary Department, and consequently we do not know what forms a Sanitary Department. There is no definition in the Ordinance when it was first created, No 23 of 1903 because they struck out throughout the Ordinance "Officers of the Board" and called them "Officers of the Sanitary Department." It seems to me that before we can settle the constitution of the Board we ought to have a definition of the Sanitary Department and the duties clearly defined of the administrative head of that department. Broadly speaking the Governor thinks that he is the head of a department of men and the whole of them are constituted to carry out the orders of the Board. If that is so and the Board is supreme I am perfectly satisfied, but there is a great doubt about it. I think a test case would be this:—Is every communication received and sent by the Administrative Head of the Sanitary Department to be available to this Board or is he to be allowed to conduct and carry on a correspondence with the Government and the information contained in that correspondence not to be available to us? Is he virtually to be one of our servants?

The PRESIDENT—I think not.

CAPTAIN LYONS—I should say not. He is to be the head of the department with the Head of the Sanitary Department board to advise him.

Mr. HOOPER—Then I am against the recommendation and would move that the Government be requested to do away with the Sanitary Department and make us as supreme as we were prior to Ordinance 23 of 1903. The Governor apparently takes a little different view from the Captain Superintendent of Police if I read his speech aright. He says he shall consult the Sanitary Board on any suggested changes in the sanitary byelaws; that he shall inform the board of any change in the organisation of the staff; that he shall inform them regarding any recommendations regarding leave or dismissal; and that he shall lay before them any complaint of the public regarding the staff.

Captain LYONS—Quite so!

Mr. HOOPER—And therefore you think he should be permitted to correspond with the Government about matters, and the information not to be available to the Board?

Captain LYONS—No, I say it should be available to the Board but he should run his department subject to the advice of the Sanitary Board.

Mr. HOOPER—And not instructions? You say advice! If it is instructions I agree with you.

Captain LYONS—You can say instructions.

Mr. HOOPER—Then I agree with you.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—Then in that case the Board is supreme.

Captain LYONS—If he disagreed from the Board he would submit his views to the Government, who would decide. I do not see how a person who comes here once a fortnight could manage the department.

Mr. HOOPER—No, that is why we want a glorified secretary—a man of calibre, rank and distinction such as we have with us to-day.

Mr. MESSEUR—You are very complimentary.

Mr. HOOPER—That was our recommendation most distinctly. It was not proposed the Board should come in the interval, and interfere. It comes back to what are to be the powers of the administrative head.

Captain LYONS—They would be drawn up by the Government and submitted to the Board.

Mr. HOOPER—Is he to be under the instructions of the Board? That is what it amounts to.

Mr. SLADE—I gather he would be under the instructions of the board subject to the supreme instructions of the Government.

Mr. HOOPER—You mean the Government have the power to over-ride our instructions?

Mr. SLADE—Yes.

The PRESIDENT—If he were under the control of the Board he would no longer be a Government officer. It would be a Municipal Council.

Mr. HOOPER—The old red herring.

Mr. IRVING—What would be the position of an officer who fulfilled the orders of the Sanitary Board against the Government's wishes?

Mr. HOOPER—He could appeal to the Government.

Mr. IRVING—I cannot see how it would work. The PRESIDENT—Mr. Hooper has moved that there be no such thing as a Sanitary Department. Does anybody second that?

Mr. HOOPER—Instead of that I would move that the head of the Sanitary Department be under the orders of the Board.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK seconded, and on a vote being taken only Messrs. Hooper, Fung Wa Chun and Lau Chu-pak supported the motion, which was declared lost.

Mr. HOOPER—Now we come to the Medical Officer of Health. I move that the Medical Officer of Health be not a member of the Board and in doing so I would quote from the appendix in the report of the Commission in which it was stated that this was proposed in 1895 and strongly objected to. I think the objection is perfectly reasonable.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN seconded.

CAPTAIN LYONS—I do not see why he should not be a member of the Board.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—I do. A secretary of a company or a manager of a factory is often called in to a directors' meeting and asked for his opinion but he is not allowed to vote.

CAPTAIN LYONS—A secretary of a company is not in the same position as an expert.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—The manager of a factory is in the same position.

Mr. SLADE—He is much freer if he has no vote. If he makes a minute and has a vote he is practically bound by his minute. But if he has no vote he can change his mind and assist the board to arrive at a better understanding.

The motion was put to the meeting and declared carried by five to three.

Mr. HOOPER then moved that the Captain Superintendent of Police be a member of the Board.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. HOOPER—I propose the building work should be handed over to the Building Engineer. The arguments which have been put forward against this proposal are that the £630 per year, which it is proposed to give him, would not be enough for the class of man which would be required.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said that such a man on such a salary would have no standing among his professional brethren who would command much higher remuneration in the Colony.

Mr. HOOPER said he could not see why a suitable man could not be procured for the salary, seeing that the Director of Public Works and his assistant had carried out the duties in the past.

CAPTAIN LYONS—Would there be sufficient work for a really good man?

Mr. HOOPER—One man does it at present.

CAPTAIN LYONS—The Government appear to have decided against such an appointment and they will have more information on the matter than us.

The matter was not pursued.

Certain proposed bye-laws were passed, and the meeting adjourned.

BUILDING AND SANITARY LAWS.

A report on the Public Health and Building Ordinance 1908 now before Government has been made by Messrs. Leigh and Orange and Palmer and Turner. Addressing Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, as Chairman of the European Landowners, they say:—

We have carefully studied the proposed Public Health and Buildings Amendment Ordinance, 1908, and have the honour to hand you herewith a copy of the Ordinance and its objects and reasons interleaved with our remarks.

We have indicated the causes in the Bill which we consider invite criticism, and have endeavoured to show clearly the effect the alterations will have upon the interests of the property owners and ratepayers.

We must call attention to our previous report upon the draft for the bill now being amended, viz., No. 1 of 1903. We then protested against the power intended to be placed in the hands of one man, the Sanitary Commissioner, and after discussion the same was then vested in the "Board"; this Bill again proposes to do it, but instead of the Sanitary Commissioner introduces the "head of the Sanitary Department," (a

Cadet) who shall be responsible for the administration of the Sanitary Department. One man! Such parts of the power as are taken from the "Board" altogether, are vested in the Building Authority, one man again!

Section 175 is dealt with, and the words "by the owner" remain. Their effect after nearly five years of costly experience is well known and an excellent opportunity arises for their deletion.

Section 176 retains the provision for setting back from any slope or declivity, "one fourth the height of the building," instead of one declivity which is obviously the correct wording.

Our predictions as to the effect of the abolition of cubicles in driving thousands out of the Colony, and affecting the cost of labour have proved to be lamentably correct.

We again protest against the injustice of legislation which is entirely aimed at the person most easily punished, viz., the landlord; in nearly all cases of nuisance the tenant is the transgressor, but because he is difficult to catch and prosecute, he goes free, while the landlord is forced to employ expert assistance, and is put to expense and annoyance.

We call attention to the serious drop in the value of property since the passing of Ordinance No. 1 of 1903. This is not entirely due to over speculation, and trade depression, as some aver, but it is largely accounted for by the reduction in the earning power of the buildings as now required.

Houses cost more and accommodate fewer persons, and consequently command less rent.

The Revenue from premium on Lands leased by the Crown has fallen heavily, the confidence of the Chinese in the Government has been shaken, and they now hesitate to invest money in real estate in the Colony.

In conclusion we suggest that an interview at which we could meet the Honourable Colonial Secretary, and the Honourable Director of Public Works, and discuss the technical points raised in this report, would possibly result in most of our proposals being adopted before the Bill is read a second time.

LEIGH AND ORANGE.

PALMER AND TURNER.

Hongkong, 31st March, 1908.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

With reference to the report made by two of the leading local firms of architects, at the request of the principal European landlords, upon the Bill to amend the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, it is of interest to know that the term "principal European landowners" used in this connection includes the following:—

Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd.

Messrs. D. Sassoon & Co., Ltd.

Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co.

Messrs. Siemssen & Co.

Messrs. Linstead and Davis,

Mr. H. N. Mody.

The Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd.

The West Point Building Co., Ltd.

The Kowloon Land and Building Co., Ltd.

The Hongkong Land Reclamation Co., Ltd.

The Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ltd.

The China Provident Loan and Mortgage Co., Ltd.

The Canton Insurance Office,

The Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.

The China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.

The Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd.

The Spanish Dominican Procuration.

Société des Missions Etrangères.

The Insurance Companies and the Steamboat Companies have a considerable part of their reserves vested in house property and are therefore vitally interested in any measures calculated to detrimentally affect their revenue from such investments.

During March the wettest day was the 4th when the rainfall amounted to 0.45. The total for the month was 0.765 which compares favourably with 2.86, the mean for the last 25 years. Most sunshine was recorded on the 12th and 31st, when both days had 9.9 hours. The total for the month was 146.0 as against 81.4 the mean for the last 25 years.

A NEW STEAMER.

Not often does a steamer leave the slips of the builder and undergo its trial trip on the same day, but this was the experience of the "Chantaboon," a steamer built by the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock to the order of the Norddeutscher Lloyd for Siam river trade in the neighbourhood of Bangkok. The double event took place on April 4th and the results were highly successful, reflecting the greatest credit on the Dock Company. The new lighter, which is the sixth the builders have sent down to Bangkok for the same owners, has a length between perpendiculars of 152 ft. 6 in. a length over all 158 ft.; breadth moulded 29 ft., depth moulded 11 ft.; height of bulwark 2 ft. 8 in.; extreme draught 9 ft. 3 in. She has two sets of vertical triple expansion surface-condensing engines, with a high pressure cylinder 84 inches in diameter, intermediate pressure 13½ inches, and light pressure 2½ inches, in diameter, with a stroke of 15 inches. She has one cylindrical moulded steel boiler, return tubular, 11 feet in diameter and 10 feet long; Fox's patent furnaces, with a working pressure of 17½ lbs. to the square inch. Her speed is 7½ knots an hour and carrying capacity 8,500 piculs.

For the launching ceremony there was a staging erected at the bow of the vessel. On this were accommodated a number of shipping people interested and several guests. Mrs. Von Reigen, wife of the N. D. L. superintendent engineer, performed the ceremony of naming the boat. Speaking in German she said—"I am asked by the Norddeutscher Lloyd to christen you Chantaboon." With that she dished a bottle of champagne on the side of the steamer which now began to move and soon slid down the ways, taking the water gracefully. A salvo of crackers and loud cheers signalled the happy event. Then Mr. Robert Mitchell, the chief manager of the Dock Company, presented Mrs. Von Reigen with a watch bracelet as a memento of the occasion, and the recipient expressed her thanks. Afterwards the company boarded the "Chantaboon," which had taken the water with steam up and was gaily bedecked with bunting, and the vessel proceeded on her trial trip under the command of Captain Major. Near Aberdeen the tests were run and satisfactory results obtained. Tiffin was served on board, among these present being Mr. Robert Mitchell, Mr. Martin (chief engineer Dock Co.), and Mrs. Von Reigen, Captain Hermeling (captain superintendent N. D. L.), Mr. Nielsen (assistant engineer superintendent N. D. L.), Mr. and Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Graham, (manager of Kowloon Docks), Mr. H. L. Fletcher, Mrs. Richardson, Mr. Hand, Mr. P. Neave, Mr. Tully, Mr. Keith, and others. After tiffin,

Mr. MITCHELL proposed the toast "Success to the Chantaboon." He remarked that it was a departure from their usual custom to have a trial trip on the same day as the launching of a new boat. But when he was asked if it could be arranged, he said it could, because he had every confidence in the staff (applause). Their trip that day showed his confidence was justified (applause). He thought they would all agree that the vessel had done very well indeed. The launch they had seen that day was the sixth vessel of her class that the Dock Company had built for the Norddeutscher Lloyd, and he was very glad to say that they had another one on order. That went to show that the Norddeutscher Lloyd had every confidence in the work of the Dock Company (applause).

The toast having been honoured, Captain HERMELING invited those assembled to drink to the health of the Dock Company's staff. He had seen the sister ships of the one they were aboard working at Bangkok, and they were doing splendid work. The vessels had given the Norddeutscher Lloyd every satisfaction. Those who knew all about ships could look over the "Chantaboon" and see everywhere evidence of first class work. The Dock Company had earned a name in the East as a first-class shipbuilding firm, and it was their staff who did the first-class work. He trusted that staff would always remain as they were to-day (applause).

Mr. NEAVE, in replying, said such commendations were pleasing to hear, and he thanked Captain Hermeling for them. He hoped the Dock Company would always retain its present position (applause).

This concluded the proceedings.

ANTUNG.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

AN EPITOME OF THE JAPA KSE ADVANCE IN MANCHURIA.

Mukden, March, 23rd.

On my return from a recent trip in Japan and Korea, I stopped in Antung. The place provides a most interesting example of Japanese colonization in Manchuria: as most people probably know, it is situated at the head of steam navigation on the Yalu, 30 miles from its mouth at that point where the narrow gauge Japanese railroad from Mukden becks to the broad gauge Japanese line across the way at Wiju. It is a city of about 40,000 inhabitants at his highest register in the summer, when the Shantung timber coolies have migrated for the season, and with its railroad, shipping, and lumber interests, it is the principal trading center of south-eastern Manchuria. Sprawled out by the frozen river under its wall of hills, the city semi-hibernates in winter while the ice is in the Yalu. It is seldom invaded from the north, for even in warm weather no man lightly undertakes those two days of jolting over the two foot gauge from Mukden, consequently, except for penetration through northern Korea, Antung seems to have escaped the notice its commercial and present political importance give it. After a long and wearisome day winding through the barren brown hills of Korea, which cover the country like Titanic Chinese graves, when the train finally rounds the last curve and straightens out across the alluvial flats that border the Yalu, it is with a breath of relief that one sees through the rattling car windows the mountains of China, high and blue and far away across the river. Arrived at Antung, you are in a Japanese town,—queer, and laid out in a kind of Wild West way, but nevertheless Japanese,—let down bodily into China. The Chinese are there, many thousands of them, but coming in from Wiju you don't seem them; Japanese people, Japanese houses, and a Liliputian Japanese train against the sky line puffing away to be lost in Manchuria. But on the books, Antung is a Chinese city. Moreover it is an open port, opened originally by China as a place of international residence and trade in 1903. About 36 thousand Chinese, counting the floating summer immigration, and less than five thousand Japanese constitute its population, but the territory occupied, or rather possessed, by the 5,000 Japanese exceeds by many thousand acres the real estate of their Chinese fellow citizens. The chief commercial activity of the place is in the export of lumber from the upper Yalu and its tributary, the Hun, but raw silk is being exported in ever increasing quantity, chiefly to Chefoo. There are 1,800 Japanese houses along streets laid out regularly upon a large prospective plan, the most imposing being the permanent stone and cement edifices occupied by the Japanese Consulate-General, the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, the Hospital, and the Yalu Timber Bureau. Other large new brick structures are half completed for schools and offices. As it is the third largest shipping port in Manchuria, an Imperial Customs Commissioner is stationed at Antung, and the city is also the seat of the "Intendency of the Eastern Marches," one of the four chief divisions of Manchuria, the Taotai in charge holding office as "Intendent" accredited to the Viceroyalty at Mukden. The other chief functionaries are the Japanese Consul-General, the British and American Vice-Consuls, and General Kojima, head of the Timber Bureau. While Japanese enterprise at Antung has equalled that at Mukden, Chinese administrative and material improvement in the former port has lagged far behind that at the Capital. Unquestionably, but for foreign interference, a large part of this region would have been added long since to the Japanese domain.

Since the military administration was withdrawn in October 1906 Japanese affairs at Antung have been in charge of Mr. Okabe, the Consul, and Chinese interests represented by Taotai Chien. General Kojima, who, as head of the Timber Bureau, is invested with one of the most important interests in Manchuria, has been from the beginning the third factor in the situation. The Japanese officials are able and vigorous partisans, strong men; the Taotai has been rather an amiable jelly-fish. The consequence is that, while Japanese interests have been championed in a manner possibly even exceeding instructions from headquarters, Chinese opposition has in no way reflected the firmness of the central authorities at Mukden. In neither public nor private questions have Chinese rights been upheld.

In July 1907 an American Consular representative was stationed at Antung and in September following a British Vice-Consul was appointed to that port. General irritation was the first result of outside intelligent criticism. The Japanese Consul stated that, as a military officer, his methods would be neither those of the business man nor of the diplomat, but those of the soldier. His performance was fully up to his word, and the Timber Bureau adopted the same attitude. But whether or not the aggressiveness of Japan's policy at Antung, as displayed by her representatives there was in any way due to the long-continued absence of intelligent foreign observation and criticism, certain it is that, during the past six months a more moderate attitude has been marked. Two events have taken place within the past six weeks to corroborate this opinion of improving conditions: the Japanese Consul General has been replaced by Mr. Sokenoba, lately Consul at Vladivostok, and Taotai Chien has been withdrawn to make room for Taotai Chi, a member of the Mukden government where he has been in charge of the Bureau of Mines. The new Taotai who reflects the decision and firmness of the Manchurian central government, has inaugurated his office with several measures intended to correct some of the lesser local evils which have become well established during his successor's incumbency. The presence of an energetic foreign Customs Commissioner and the British and American Consuls seems to have had at once the effect of encouraging China to firmer action, and of restraining Japan from further aggressiveness.

But the big questions remain unsolved, and they cry aloud for solution. Chief among them, as a matter of general political interest, is the Yalu Timber question, which is, however, a subject so large as to warrant separate treatment. More important as significant of Japanese tactics in Manchuria is the Land question. After the military withdrawal the Japanese occupied, and now hold, "as settlement and railway land", 11,500 mow (1,966 acres) in addition to 1,666 acres more acquired by private parties with official assistance, all of which area was the property of various native landowners. These estates, by the specific evidence of dispossessed Chinese, seem to have been confiscated. The title deeds are still unregistered. The agreements to sell were, in a majority of instances forced, often by threats of execution from the trembling peasantry, who "silently weeping"—one written protest states,—signed away their patrimony. Many so-called contracts of sale were signed by women or by servants in the absence of male members of the family, and are, of course, by any law, quite invalid. If a fair return for the land had been made, much criticism might have been disarmed, but it is matter of record that land, the market value of which varied between 300 and 400 taels (\$240 to \$320) per tain (1 acre) was taken arbitrarily at from \$21 to \$42. A great deal of hardship has thus been wrought in throwing out whole families, who know nothing but agricultural means to a livelihood, without other means of support. I was informed that a few of these evicted tenants had been allowed to come back as lessees upon the land once owned by them, paying to the Japanese 2/5ths of their agricultural returns, the "2/5" in some cases, estimated by the Japanese, actually exceeding the total amount of production on those particular holdings. Calculated in Japanese currency, the Chinese lessees have in instances

paid an annual rental from 13 to 40 yen, and for land which the Japanese purchased at from 7 to 40 yen, and for buildings on the railway land, formerly owned but now leased by their Chinese tenants, the Japanese have demanded a yearly rental of from 40 to 50 yen per chien in cases where the purchase price paid by them did not exceed from 14 to 20 yen. [Of course all this was "hearsay" evidence.—Ed.] All of these cases are in the so-called Japanese "railway settlement", a township whose boundaries literally run along the crests of the hills behind the city where the defining timber monuments can be seen against the sky. But even in the Chinese city itself many buildings, the largest and most desirable, are still occupied by Japanese police, gendarmes, and railway guards, held by the Japanese in spite of express provision for their return contained in the Kemura Convention of 1915, and reaffirmed in the supplementary agreement concluded between the Viceroy and the Japanese Consul General at Mukden in 1907. Over and against these crying abuses all that can be said by way of palliation is, that since the coming of the foreign Consuls and the changes in personnel above mentioned, no new acts of invasion have been committed, and a tract of land on the river north of the native town, which has been for a long time held by the Japanese military authorities without any benefit to themselves and with considerable inconvenience to the Chinese, was finally restored to the Intendent last September.

Closely connected with the matter of the railway settlement is the question of a railway bridge across the Yalu from New Wiju to Antung which is now being laid before the Tokyo Government by the American and British Embassies. The plan of the railway administration office, connected with the Residency-General of Korea, was to run a substantial and continuous structure from the Korean side to a point in the southern section of the Japanese settlement. Inasmuch as this situation on the Manchurian side is down stream and well to the south of the Chinese city the erection of a bridge without a draw will effectually cut off the Chinese from any use of the port for shipping except through the Japanese settlement. Fortunately strong representations have been made at Tokyo by both the British and American Ambassadors on advice from their respective Consuls at Antung, and it now seems reasonable to hope that, when the bridge is built, it will be of a character to admit equality of opportunity to foreign and Chinese interests.

In the matter of the Customs, the long delay of the Chinese in enforcing import duties on the Russo-Chinese frontier has never been advanced by the Japanese as an objection against the existence of a Custom House at Antung as it has been to the continuation of that at Dalny. The chief reason for this apparently double attitude is that, on account of the comparative isolation of this region, Japanese goods entering through the port have not been forced to meet duty-free Russian imports from the north. The Imperial Customs Commissioner, established at Antung in March 1907, has been quite unable to place the service upon a sound basis. For example vessels anchoring on the Korean side of the river with cargo for Antung, claim exemption by reason of anchorage jurisdiction, from the regular tonnage dues. Furthermore, smuggling, even on the part of well-known firms, is frequent and unchecked by the Japanese authorities, who also refuse to pay the regular Customs dues on timber exported by the Japanese Timber Bureau. Chinese competition is thus rendered well nigh hopeless since the low price at which the Bureau appropriates its timber places the Chinese merchants at an initial disadvantage which, if increased, would be fatal.

All of the above questions are in a very broad view debatable, although injustice and hardship are undoubtedly produced by the status quo pending their settlement. It remains to speak of another matter which cannot be defended.

In Manchuria, under the strong government of Hsu Shih Chang and Tang Shao Yi, the opium and gambling evils, never so prevalent in the Three Eastern Provinces as elsewhere in China, have practically been stamped out. In Antung, with its shifting coolie population from Shantung and the south, it has, however, been particularly difficult to eradicate these

dens. Nevertheless, in the spring of 1907 they were closed, and their inmates and proprietors driven out of the Chinese city. Within a month this entire body of emigres, their numbers swelled by both Japanese and Chinese recruits, were established and doing a flourishing business in the Japanese settlement. They have continued to maintain themselves there ever since. At the present time, owing to the absence for the winter of almost all the timber coolies, the number of these dens of vice has decreased by nearly 40 per cent. but there are now running openly in the Japanese city, by actual count, 60 opium shops, one large gambling establishment and 10 outdoor gambling booths. As the diminution has not been in any way due to reformatory measures, the return of the coolies in the spring will probably re-open the dens now closed. The portion of the Japanese settlement occupied by these industries has been leased at an excellent figure to one Wang, a Chinese, who styles himself Adviser to the Japanese Municipal Council. Wang levies dues upon his constituents, which in the busy season amount to as much as 25,000 yen per month, from which budget 6,000 yen is paid monthly to the Japanese. The Chinese Police Magistrate continues his efforts to check the spread of these vices outside the alien limits, but the contagion always tends to spread from the fever spot, and his and other efforts for the cleaning up of Antung must, under the present status, remain futile.

Much remains to be said of this most interesting international situation. There are many incidents and anecdotes which are bound to impress one, even in a few days' residence, as typical and significant of the forces and situations developing along the Yalu.

It is a well known fact that in Antung, a port which they have particularly exploited, not a single Japanese enterprise is making money except the Timber Bureau and the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha. The representative of the Yokohama Specie Bank says he can no longer make loans to local Japanese firms for lack of sufficient security. Of the 1,000 Japanese houses built in Antung 400 are standing empty, the occupants of some unable to sustain their precarious existence, and the builders of others too sanguine as to the immediate future of leasehold property. In less than a year the Japanese population of Antung has fallen from 5,122 in 1907 to 4,900 at present. The Chinese do not buy from Japanese merchants to any appreciable extent, and in February last, the chief Chinese merchants of the port formally agreed, in a meeting called for that purpose, not to make contracts with the Japanese either for delivery or sale. What the future south-eastern Manchuria will be it is difficult now to state. The answer depends chiefly upon how the Timber rights, the Chientao Boundary, and the Antung-Mukden Railway and Mining questions are adjusted.

SHIPPING AT HONGKONG.

The report of the Harbour Master of Hongkong for the year 1907 was laid before the Legislative Council on Thursday. It shows an increase of entrances and clearances, in comparison with the total for 1906. The increase is 77,908 vessels of 3,281,042 tons. Most of this, however, is accounted for by "ships" of sixty-ton capacity and under harbour launches, likely. Still, on the shipping that counts, there was a respectable increase of 3,110 vessels aggregating 579,814 tons.

The increase is thus distributed:

British Ocean-going vessels 59 ships of 26,698 tons.

Foreign Ocean-going vessels 334 ships of 627,310 tons.

British River steamers 364 ships with a decrease in tonnage of 212,137 tons.

Foreign River steamers 233 ships of 76,675 tons.

Steamships not exceeding 60 tons 703 ships of 29,739 tons.

Junks in foreign trade 1,411 vessels of 32,039 tons.

Of the actual totals, arriving and departing, engaged in foreign trade, British ocean-going vessels amounted to 31.4 per cent., foreigner, representing 3.35 per cent. Counting in 20.1 per cent. as British river steamers, against 3.2 per cent. foreign (and ignoring launches and junks) we see that the Red Ensign predominated with 51.5 per cent. against 36.7 under alien flags. The Star ferry boats, private launches, and fishing junks, were not counted in the above figures.

The average daily entry of European built foreign-going ships was 24.77, as against 22.5 in 1906.

The average ocean-going tonnage entering increased from 1,784.9 to 1,785.6 tons, but the average of river steamer tonnage dropped from 734 to 661 tons. British ocean-goers (average) dropped from 1,945 to 1,921 tons, and the foreigners improved their average from 1,654 to 1,670 tons. The decline in river averages was general.

Excluding local launches and junks, dust boats, &c., the totals compare as follows:

	1906		1907
ships.	tons.	ships.	tons.
44,550	22,453,077	47,660	23,032,891

Of Ocean vessels under the British flag, there was an increase of 59 ships of 26,698 tons.

In British River steamers there is an increase of 364 ships with a decreased tonnage of 212,137 tons, which is mainly due to the withdrawal of the large sized steamer "Hankow" and the addition of the two small Macao steamers "Sui Tai" and "Sui An."

For Foreign Ocean vessels an increase of 334 ships of 627,350 tons is shown, which is wholly due to the Japanese firms increasing their carrying trade. Under this flag, an increase of 455 ships of 976,450 tons is found, which is a general falling off under other flags.

For Foreign River steamers an increase of 238 ships of 76,075 tons is shown, which can be accounted for, by vessels under the German, Chinese and Portuguese flags making more trips in 1907 than in 1906.

Junks in foreign trade show a legitimate increase of 1,411 vessels of 32,059 tons.

The decrease in local Junk trade, 10,841 vessels of 263,763 tons may be ascribed to the cessation of the Naval extension work and to the falling off in Conservancy boats.

The actual number of individual Ocean-going ships of European construction entering during the year was 803, being 362 British and 438 Foreign.

These 800 ships aggregated 1,860,245 tons. They entered 4,182 times, giving a collective tonnage of 7,467,511 tons. That was 70 less ships than in 1906, of 73,514 tons less, which entered 170 more times, and thus increased the collective tonnage by 306,183.

An interesting table classifies these figures under nations. The figures in brackets are for 1906, included for comparison. "S" means steamers, "T.E." indicates numbers of times entered, and the larger figures represent tonnage. Thus:

British s. 355 (413) t.e. 1867 (1846) 3,586,510 (3,580,508).

German s. 137 (143) t.e. 790 (846) 1,246,053 (1,343,420).

Norwegian s. 59 (80) t.e. 291 (279) 265,728 (289,857).

Japanese s. 111 (68) t.e. 534 (298) 1,126,517 (640,715).

The large increase in Japanese was only to be expected. French shipping was less, Chinese and Russian about the same, and American slightly less (251,590 tons against 299,079). There were two Korean ships, entering 14 times, with a collective tonnage of 21,298 tons. The previous year's curiosity, of a flagless ship of 178 tons, was not repeated.

"Wind-jammers" arrived ten times to the number of eight (four less), the collective tonnage under sail being 19,503, against 26,056 the year before.

Whatever outcry there may be about foreign crews, it seems there can be none about officers. The 362 British vessels carried 3,244 British officers and only 14 foreign (six American, four Norwegian, and two each Danish and Dutch.) Against this we find the 438 foreign vessels carrying 3,304 officers, of whom 152 were British. These were mostly on Chinese, Japanese, and American vessels, half a dozen

Britons serving on French and German ships. The distribution of crews was (on British ships) 22,976 Britons, 638 other Europeans or Americans, and 115,308 Asiatics, while on the foreign craft it was 1,699 British, 29,721 other Europeans or Americans, and 115,474 Asiatics. That is to say, in British ships 16.5 per cent of the crews were British, 0.5 per cent other white men, and 83 per cent Asiatics. It might have been pointed out by Commander Taylor that a very large proportion of the Asiatics are British subjects.

The returns of trade, being by no means exact, are this year merely estimated in round numbers. An increase of about 360,000 tons in imports is put down, and an increase of 191,000 tons exports, with a 518,000 ton increase in transit cargo.

The figures as reported from 16,515 vessels amounted as follows: Import 4,366,000 tons; export 2,355,000; transit, 3,396,000; and bunker coal 725,000; total 10,842,000 tons. River-wise, imports and exports augmented, but passenger traffic fell away. The figures are thus tabulated:

	Imports	Exports	Passengers
1906 ...	284,890	223,070	2,561,972
1907 ...	351,000	370,000	2,226,982

Junks bore 665,000 tons of imports and 897,000 tons of exports.

During the year the Harbour Department collected revenue amounting to \$348,300 as against \$298,106 in 1906. (Odd cents omitted.) This increase of \$50,193, however, includes \$24,098 for boat licences, now issued by the Department, formerly issued by the Registrar General. The collection was divided into Light Dues \$80,389; Licences and internal revenue \$116,122; and Court and Office fees, \$151,746. Junk licences produced eight-eighth thousand dollars more than before, and boat licences nine thousand more. Sabbath-breakers contributed \$9,852, an imposition that future years will see done away with. The only people really entitled to any of it are the crews who work cargo on their day of rest. Since the ordinance was passed, \$425,922 has been collected for these permits, and the amount seems to get bigger every year. Revenue from fishing-stake-and-station licences decreased considerably. The expenditure of the Department was \$160,383 (exclusive of Crown Agents' bill rendered in the last month. Never was such a harbour for steam-launches as Hongkong, and it is interesting to note that this familiar form of craft numbered 285, yielding \$662 for licences. Emigrants leaving Hongkong numbered 105,967; they went mostly in British ships. It was a record year for emigration. There were 145,822 returned emigrants. Eighty engineers passed examinations during the year, and 36 deck officers. No new pilots were made, but 18 licences were renewed.

Glancing through the usual appendices, we see that out of 36 vessels registered at this port, only two were over a thousand tons, the "Sui An" and "Sui Tai." Of the whole number, 28 were built here, and half a dozen at Shanghai. There is a cheerful looking diagram showing how consistently the entire trade has climbed to its proud eminence of 11,500,000 tons, its tonnage to ten millions, of which the British, up to 6,700,000 in 1904, has since dropped to 5,900,000. Foreign tonnage had a similar drop in 1904, but has since regained and slightly improved on its four millions of that period. Junk tonnage meanders horizontally across the diagram, with a tendency to droop from 1896. German tonnage climbed steadily until 1902, since when it ricochets between twelve and fourteen hundred thousand. The Japanese line is quite a drunken affair, owing to its two wars, but its upward swoop since 1905 (from 40,000 tons to 1,100,000) is not to be mistaken. Of opium, 40,842½ chests were imported, being 6,724 less than in 1906. Chests exported numbered 42,702, or 4,873½ less than in 1906. Nearly nine thousand chests passed through without being landed. Four hundred and fifteen cases of morphia were imported and 393 exported. Sugar was imported to the quantity of 292,527 tons, mostly from Java (216,486 tons) and the Philippines (58,978 tons). This import was 190,592 tons more in 1906. Vessels surveyed during the year numbered 192, or 431,705 tons.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 3rd April.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

CONNAUGHT HOTEL CLAIM.

The Connaught Hotel brought an action to recover \$152.75 from R. S. Horsley. Mr. S. Dickson, from the office of Mr. R. A. Harding, acted for plaintiffs, while defendant did not appear.

The manager of the hotel stated that defendant owed his board and lodgings at the hotel but from the total amount due he had deducted the salary due to him. Defendant had expressed his inability to pay and witness employed him as runner for the hotel. Instead of acting as runner he told the people that the hotel was no good.

Judgment for plaintiff with costs.

Wednesday, 8th April.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT).

THE INTERPRETATION OF A CHARTER PARTY.

The Man Cheong Yuen Firm claimed from the Fukusei Company 527 bags of rice belonging to the plaintiff in the possession of defendants or \$5176.94 the value thereof and \$500 damages for detention thereof.

The statement of claim stated that plaintiffs are merchants carrying on business at 159 Wing Lok Street and defendants are merchants and agents of the owners of the Japanese steamship "Koun Maru" and carry on business at 3 Queen's Road Central. By a charter party dated 2nd March, 1907, made between the plaintiffs and defendants as agents of the owners the plaintiffs chartered the said steamship for a voyage from Saigon to Hongkong to carry a full and complete cargo of rice and/or other lawful merchandise. By clause 17 of the said charter party the freight payable upon a mixed cargo was 24 cents per picul upon 45,000 piculs, being the estimated capacity of the said steamship. The plaintiffs loaded the steamship with a full and complete mixed cargo of lawful merchandise consisting of white rice, cargo flour, white flour, and dried fish of a total weight of 41,142 piculs. On or before the 27th April, 1907, the plaintiffs paid defendants \$10,800 in respect of this cargo, at the rate of 24 cents per picul on 45,000 piculs, but the defendants wrongfully refused to deliver to the plaintiffs on their demand 527 bags of white rice, the property of the plaintiffs and part of the said cargo and had since detained and wrongfully converted the same to their own use.

Defendants replied that plaintiffs did not load the steamship with either a full or complete cargo or with a mixed cargo. The cargo which was loaded upon the steamship weighed 41,158.10 piculs out of a total capacity of the ship of 45,000 piculs. The cargo was not a mixed cargo, and defendants justified the detention of the bags of rice under the charter party which gave the master of the ship a lien on the cargo for freight, dead freight and demurrage. They had not converted them to their own use and were willing to return them to the plaintiffs on the payment of \$1404.49 for additional freight due by the plaintiffs and incurred by the defendants in connection therewith.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. A. G. Jackson, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, appeared for the plaintiffs, and defendants were represented by the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. C. I. Beavis.

Mr. Slade, in opening, said there appeared to be in this case only two questions in dispute. One was whether or not a cargo consisting of rice, rice flour, and salt fish was a mixed cargo within the meaning of the charter party entered into between the parties for the conveyance of a cargo of broken rice, rice flour, and other lawful merchandise from Saigon to Hongkong. The second question seemed to be whether or not there was a full and complete cargo.

His Honour—You pay as if it was a full cargo?

Mr. Slade—They make that point.

Mr. Pollock—No no. We interpret it in the same way. The point is the mixed cargo. It is reduced to one point.

Mr. Slade—There is no question of the amount between us.

Mr. Pollock—I don't think so. We will take it there was a full and complete cargo.

Mr. Slade—As to the figures they are all agreed. We have paid one way or another the full amount.

Mr. Pollock—It has been agreed to in correspondence.

Mr. Slade—If it was a mixed cargo we have paid the defendants the full amount we owe. If it was not a mixed cargo then we ought to pay the amount claimed.

Evidence was afterwards called on behalf of the plaintiffs' case, and the case adjourned.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

NEWSPAPER DIFFICULTIES.

His Honour gave his reserved decision in the action by the Si Wui Kong Po firm, who are the proprietors of a Chinese newspaper, against the Chong Seng firm of printers for \$1,000 for loss caused by breach of contract in printing their paper. The Chong Seng firm counterclaimed for \$173.17, being the balance due for printing done. Mr. P. W. Goldring, of Messrs Goldring Barlow and Morrell, acted for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Jackson, from the office of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, appeared for the defendants.

His Honour said that it seemed the defendants were very anxious to get rid of the contract and it was admitted on their behalf that the plaintiffs would not release them unless they paid damages. He considered the contract was wrongfully broken and that plaintiffs were entitled to damages. He gave judgment for plaintiffs with costs and left the question of the amount of damages to be settled by the Registrar.

WHERE WERE THE PROFITS?

Wong Cheuk Ng, otherwise Wong Fui sued Tam Ching Wa and Ng Yik Fat, contractors, for \$435, being his share of the profits made in the business of the company.

Mr. Crowther Smith appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. E. J. Grist for the second defendant.

Mr. Grist—I understand the second defendant has not been served, and I take the point that the second defendant cannot be sued in the form of the present writ. I asked for particulars and they have been supplied. I take it that the only action that lies is for a statement of accounts.

His Honour—Have any accounts been taken?

Mr. Grist—We say no, my Lord, but I understand my friend says that they have been taken.

Mr. Smith—I propose to say, my Lord, that the defendant has told the plaintiff what his share in the business was and that he did not have the money to pay him.

His Honour—You say that the money has reached his hands?

Mr. Smith—I think after your Lordship has heard the evidence you will come to that conclusion.

Mr. Grist—If it discloses any right of action it is an action against both people. Both people must be brought into court. There were about fifteen partners in this concern and we say the money has never been in my client's hands. I contend the defendant cannot be sued in the present form of the writ.

His Honour (to Mr. Smith) Do you wish to proceed against the one defendant served?

Mr. Smith—That is what I propose to do.

His Honour—And you will prove that he admitted having this money in his hands for the plaintiff?

Mr. Smith—Yes. He said he had the money but could not pay just now or words to that effect.

His Honour—Then you want the writ amended against this man?

Mr. Smith—Yes, my Lord.

Evidence was called, and the case adjourned.

Thursday, 9th April.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR FRANCIS PIGOTT).

CLAIM ON A BILL OF EXCHANGE.

Judgment was given in the action brought by Leung Sin Hoi, trading as the Chin Foong Hoi K'ee firm of Singapore, against the Cheong Wing firm of 72, Bonham Strand, bankers, Wong Long-him of the same address, the Wing Tung Sun firm of 207, Des Voeux Road Central merchants, the Wing Cheong firm of 129, Des Voeux Road West, and Lyn-Nam, merchant, as the drawers of a bill of exchange for \$10,000 dated January 7th, 1907, and drawn by the defendants upon the plaintiff, and payable to the order of the Netherlands Indies Commercial Bank 21 days after sight, payment whereof was made by the plaintiff on the 8th February 1907 to the Netherlands Indies Commercial Bank. Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. R. F. C. Master (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. P. S. denham Dixon (of Mr. R. A. Harding's office) for the defendants.

His Lordship said:—The only facts to which I will refer in this case are very simple. The Chin Foong Hoi K'ee of Singapore and the Wing Cheong firm of Hongkong were in the habit of drawing upon one another for purposes of their business and remitting the money to meet their bills and the present action is brought upon the last of these series which was drawn by the Wing Cheong upon the Chin Foong Hoi K'ee for \$10,000 to the order of the Netherlands Indies Commercial Bank. The bill was discounted at the Hongkong branch and was guaranteed in so far as the Bank was concerned by the Wing Tung Sun and the Cheong Wing firm; the signatures of these two firms appear on the bill as drawers by the side of the Wing Cheong and their character as guarantors in so far as the Bank is concerned is clearly established by the books of the bank. A letter was written by Li Lan Nam, the manager of the Wing Cheong, on 7th January, 1907, to the plaintiff informing him that the bill had been drawn which contained this sentence: "I have this day negotiated a twenty one days' bill for \$10,000 at the Fan Ta Bank. It is guaranteed by the two firms Wing Tung Sun and Cheong Wing of this port and you, sir, will certainly not need to be anxious. On its arrival please accept the bill and when due please pay accordingly and I shall be obliged." The bill was accepted by the plaintiff and though it was noted for non-payment 7th February, it was in fact paid by him. He now sued to recover the amount from the drawer and his two guarantors. The drawer is bankrupt and has absconded. The point of law can be simply stated. Can the acceptor recover the amount he has paid on the bill from persons whose names appear on the bill as the Wing Tung and the Wing Cheong, although they were in fact put on the bill merely as guarantors to the bank, for the purpose of negotiation? These two defendants are clearly accommodation parties within section 25 (1) of the Bankruptcy Act because they have left their names as drawers without receiving value therefor, and I think the plaintiff accepted the bill without value and therefore that it is an accommodation bill. The possibility of value arising out of the continued system of dealing between the parties is, I think, negatived by the fact that all the transactions were independent and in no sense to be described as mutual dealings; and the suggestion that the value might be found in the first transactions of this special series of bills is too problematical to be accepted. I take the following from Chalmers: "Formerly it was held at law that while a party's name appeared on a bill as principal he could not be held to be a surety, for that was a contradiction of the written instrument. This defence was afterwards modified in cases where it could be known there was a contemporaneous agreement that he would be treated as a surety and now it is clearly established that the rights of the surety are as independently of the form of the instrument." But this emphasises the rights of the surety.

and the next sentence in Chalmers makes this clear: "For the purpose of enforcing the debt the principal debtor on the instrument may be treated as such: but apart from this as soon as the creditor is affected in the notice that the apparent principal was and is only a surety the ordinary consequences which flow from that relationship enter, and the creditor disregards them at his peril." Now the plaintiff's case stated quite crudely is this: Li Lan Nam draws on him for \$10,000 at 21 days; he tells him he has negotiated the bill at the bank with the assistance of Wing Cheong and Wing Tung Sun as guarantors; he does not say a word to lead the plaintiff to believe that they have also guaranteed him. If the letter bore this construction it would have been necessary to inquire whether Li Lan Nam had authority from the other defendants to give their names as guarantors to the plaintiff, but it cannot be so construed. When the letter was produced the plaintiff in cross-examination said: "They were to guarantee. They will have to pay the bank if I fail but if I pay they will repay me." I do not believe this to be true, quite apart from another statement he made in cross-examination. He said he had business dealings with the three firms before but when pressed he shuffled, saying first that he had bill of exchange transactions with the three firms and immediately afterwards he corrected himself and said they were with the Wing Cheong only; that he had other business with the others but not in connection with drafts; and his books being produced showed no account with Wing Cheong or with Wing Tung Sun which he explained by saying that the bill was entered in the account with Wing Cheong. This is much too unsatisfactory for me to believe even if there were a possibility of the letter having this interpretation. But it does not imply and it was admitted in answer to my question that the action here in this court must be on the letter and not on the bill: that the Wing Cheong and Wing Tung Sun could not be sued on this letter. The question involved in this instance as illustrated by the case on which it is based *Manby v. Boycott* was recognised. That case establishes the proposition that if a drawer of a bill does in fact sign as surety to the knowledge of the drawer then the giving of time to the principal debtor releases the surety. This was laid down in 1853. A few years later it was treated in *The Queen's Bench* as an equity but the point which has to be proved here is not that these two parties who appear as drawers were sureties to the drawer but that they signed only as sureties to the bank, the payee, and that they undertook no liabilities towards the drawer; that so far as they are concerned the bill must be treated as if their names were not in it. So that the question is whether the principal laid down in *Manby v. Boycott* is merely with dealing with the question of giving to the principal debtor, or is only an example of a larger principle that the circumstances in which a bill is made may be given in evidence, in spite of the rule that verbal evidence is not receivable to contradict a written instrument. The general rule is laid down that evidence may be given which is consistent with the written instrument and Lord Campbell says that if the payee of a joint and several promissory notes made in the common form by two may be placed in the situation of treating the one as surety for the other, this can only be by his express appeal to do so when the note was delivered to him; that is by an arrangement. But the question here is the converse; can the drawee of a bill of exchange drawn in the common form by three be placed in the situation of treating two of them as if their names were not on the bill? I think that what you can do in one case on the authority of *Manby v. Boycott* you can do in the other—for it can be done in any case only in virtue of some definite principle and cannot be considered merely with the question of giving time. Therefore I think the answer must be in the affirmative if he knew the object with which those names were in fact put on the bill and it is clear that he did from the letter of 7th February from Li Lan Nam. The same result is arrived at by considering the question from the point of view of the discharge of the bill. By section

59 a bill is discharged, that is, all rights of action thereon are extinguished by payment in due course, that is, at or after maturity of the bill, by the drawee. That is what happened in this case. By subsection 3 an accommodation bill is discharged if it is paid in due course by the party accommodated. It says nothing about payment in due course by the accommodating party; this therefore falls within the first subsection; indeed subsection 3 is only introduced to provide for a case which does not fall within subsection 1. When a bill is discharged the rights of action on it are extinguished but the rights which arise out of what Chalmers calls very aptly "the bill transaction" remain. I therefore have no difficulty in accepting his statement on page 202 that "if an accommodation acceptor pays a bill it is discharged, but he has a personal right of action for indemnity." In other words the action here after the bill was paid by the plaintiff is not on the bill but on the bill transaction: the whole of which is contained in the letter of 7th January from Li Lan Nam and on that letter there is not the shadow of a right which could be enforced against these two defendants, nor any word from which an undertaking on their part to indemnify the acceptor could be implied. Judgment must therefore be for the defendants with costs.

Mr. Slade—Against both defendants who appear?

His Honour—Yes.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

THE INTERPRETATION OF A CHARTER PARTY.

The case in which the Man Cheong Yuen firm claimed from the Fukusei Company 527 bags of rice belonging to the plaintiffs in the possession of defendants or \$5176.94 the value thereof and \$500 damages for detention thereof, was called on. Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. A. G. Jackson, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, appeared for the plaintiffs, and defendants were represented by the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. C. E. Beavis.

His Lordship said:—The case was argued before me yesterday. It is a case practically in which two parties have endeavoured to state in the contract their views to one another and have signally failed in expressing any definite intention of what they meant. It is perfectly clear to me that, if there had been a board of commercial arbitrators, this is a case which should have been referred to it at once. Instead of wasting a year in the law courts, it could have been tried and decided quickly by a board of arbitrators. One always gets ideas rather late, but I have no doubt that I ought to have had an assessor sitting with me in this case because this is a question which, as a lawyer, I may decide something which is quite contrary to the meaning of either party. It is perfectly clear that it is a commercial arrangement between two firms and to decide between them is perfectly bona fide, but I cannot help thinking even now the matter can be arranged by an arbitrator.

Mr. Slade—Evidence could be obtained from shipowners. This is a form of contract which has been in use here for many years. I think your Lordship would be satisfied as to the commercial interpretation by a quarter of an hour's evidence.

His Honour—I do not want to do that. That was suggested yesterday. If the parties do not agree I must decide it by myself. I have power, I think, under the section to appoint an assessor. I think the parties might perhaps agree.

Mr. Slade—As far as I am concerned I am perfectly willing.

His Honour—I think you had better do that. It is not a case for a law court. Whatever decision I give must be unsatisfactory. It is much better to have the assistance of an assessor.

Mr. Pollock—As your Lordship pleases.

His Honour—I do not intend to re-argue it.

Mr. Slade—It seems to me you want to know what is the practice of the Colony.

His Honour—No, I want to interpret it according to the ideas of those concerned with charter parties.

Mr. Pollock—The court might appoint an assessor.

His Honour—Yes, if you agree to the suggestion. I am not going to force you to have an assessor.

Mr. Pollock—I understand your Lordship will have the assessor in your chambers without any further argument?

His Honour—Yes.

Mr. Pollock—We are both agreed.

The appointment of an assessor was afterwards considered.

IN BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

A DRAPER'S FAILURE.

A. Mahommed, lately carrying on business as a draper at 18 D'Aguilar Street, attended for his first public examination.

Debtor stated in reply to the Official Receiver that he commenced business as a draper at the end of 1904 when he bought the shop for \$7,500. He paid \$1,000 in cash and the remainder he agreed to pay by monthly instalments of \$400. There was still a balance of \$400 to pay. He could not tell what the profits were, although he had kept books which had never been entered up since the commencement of the business, as he did not understand bookkeeping. It was a cash and credit business and for the first two years he knew he was making a profit, but during the last two years he was aware that he had been losing money. He still went on ordering goods on credit to the extent of \$2,000 and he borrowed several thousand dollars, after he knew he was insolvent, to pay for some of the goods he had obtained on credit. He had no other property except the stock which realized about \$18,000.

The examination was closed.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

DANENBERG V. WEISSMANN.

Francis Paul Danenberg, aerated water manufacturer, sued Hans Weissmann, of Queen's Road Central, for \$291.58, being balance of money due for goods supplied. Mr. Atkinson, from the office of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon, appeared for the plaintiff, and defendant was represented by Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro.

Mr. Atkinson stated that a slight error had been discovered in the accounts and the claim was reduced by \$17 or \$18. The dealings between the parties commenced as far back as 1902 when plaintiff at the request of defendant took cakes and pastries from him as he was starting business. He sold those for him, and at the same time furnished defendant from time to time with aerated waters. This arrangement continued for some time, but though payments were made occasionally, the account was never actually settled and in consequence the present action was raised. Accounts were sent in to defendant, and in February 1906 plaintiff, at the request of the defendant, went and saw him. He showed the account to Mr. Weissmann and after the latter had studied it he agreed to the amount. It was arranged as defendant was not able to pay the money that the discount of 20 per cent which Mr. Danenberg usually allowed to purchasers should be reduced to 10 per cent and the remaining 10 per cent used in the reduction of the account. This arrangement was arrived at in March 1906. Defendant sent in an account which was difficult to understand, but the greater part of plaintiffs' claim was admitted.

Plaintiff was called and corroborated Mr. Atkinson's opening statement. He added that Mr. Weissmann explained he could not pay when asked because he had incurred great expense by going home to get married. When he learned that defendant was about to leave the Colony he wrote reminding him of his account but delivery of the letter was not accepted at the Café Weissmann. Plaintiff himself went there and was told that the café was no longer in the name of Mr. Weissmann. He then proceeded to defendant's residence where Mrs. Weissmann said her husband was in the shop. She enclosed the letter in an envelope which she addressed in German and sent to the shop. It was then accepted.

For the defence the "statute of limitation's" was pleaded. Judgment was reserved.

Friday, 10th April.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING
PUISNE JUDGE).

EXCESSIVE INTEREST.

Tam Hoi Ship sued Tam Ma Tsau for \$1,117.23 due as principal and interest on money lent on 16 April, 1885. Plaintiff waived \$117.23 in order to bring the claim within the jurisdiction of the Court.

Mr. R. Harding told the Court that he appeared for the man on whom service had been made and that he was instructed to say that he knew nothing about it. It seemed an extraordinary claim, \$147 principal and \$1219 interest and a debt twenty-three years old.

Mr. Crowther Smith, who appeared for the plaintiff, said the Court had made an order for substituted service and that had been carried out. Payments had been made within the last two years, so that the claim was quite good.

Plaintiff produced the note and said that he received the last payment on 4th January, when \$150 was paid. He originally lent the defendant \$147.63, that was in 1885.

His Honour—At what rate are you calculating interest?

Mr. Smith—The interest is for 255 months at three per cent.

His Honour—I do not understand this note.

Witness explained that the time for repayment was limited to one year and, if defendant failed to pay within that time, the debt would be doubled. After the expiration of another year the debt would be trebled.

His Honour—After two years?

Witness—Yes.

His Honour—Where is your place?

Witness—I am living in Square Street. I do not carry on any business. I have property in the country.

His Honour—I will not give judgment until Thursday. If I then make an order for payment it will only be for payment by instalments.

GATHERING WILD FLOWERS.

INTERESTING PROSECUTION AT
THE MAGISTRACY.

A case of more than ordinary interest and importance, affecting as it does the custom of gathering wild flowers from the hillsides, came before Mr. Wood at the Magistracy on April 11th. A week ago a gardener in the service of Mr. D. R. Law of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire was convicted of having been in the unlawful possession of a quantity of azalias, and fined five dollars. Two or three days later Mr. Jackson, from the office of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, appeared and asked that the case be reheard. His Worship consented and Saturday was fixed for the rehearing. Sergt. Floyd prosecuted and Mr. Jackson defended.

P. S. Floyd, of Mount Gough Police Station, said he saw the defendant on 4th inst. in Plantation Road carrying a basket of azalia branches and ferns. He asked him in Chinese where he came from and defendant replied from the hillside. He further asked where on the hillside and defendant indicated the direction of Victoria Hospital. Witness had since visited the place and found considerable damage done to other non-flowering shrubs. The azalia trees had the appearance of being planted by the Government.

Mr. Jackson—That is not evidence.

Witness added that he arrested defendant; took him to the Police Station, and defendant was fined \$5.

Cross-examined.—He had been in charge at Mount Gough Police Station for about three weeks. He received no special instructions but the Ordinance gave them the powers under which he acted.

How long have you been in Hongkong?—About eight and a half years.

How many prosecutions have you seen for unlawful possession of flowers?—Three or four cases.

What was the last case?—The case of Mr. Parr.

That was at the instance of the King?—No, Mr. May.

Mr. May reported the matter?—Yes.

Was he complainant?—No, the defendant pleaded guilty.

They usually plead guilty?—Yes.

You said the defendant pointed to the hillside when you stopped him?—Yes.

Do you know whether it is a habit of these gardeners and coolies to go out on to the hillside to pluck flowers?—I don't.

Do you know they go out every day?—If I saw them I would arrest them.

Do you know it is a regular occurrence?—I have been told so.

Did you believe the coolie when he told you that he took the flowers from Wanchai Gap? You don't allege he took them out of a garden? You agree that he took them from the hillside?—He said so and pleaded guilty in this court.

Never mind about that. He is not pleading guilty to-day. Are you prepared to admit that he took the flowers from the Peak? Do you believe what he said?—It is not my duty to believe.

But he says he got them on the hillside?—Had I seen him on Government property I should have charged him with trespassing.

Under what section?—I believe it is section 8.

Quite right. From what circumstances did you come to the conclusion that these flowers had been stolen or unlawfully obtained?—I suspected they were unlawfully obtained.

What were the circumstances?—There were only two places from which they could have been taken, crown land or private land.

What are these flowers worth?—I could not say.

Ten cents?—I could not say.

Do you think you could buy all he got for ten cents?—I don't know.

What price would you put them at in your own mind?—Ten cents or so, but I really could not say.

More than ten cents?—Yes, more than ten cents.

Fifteen cents?—I am not a judge.

You have bought flowers down the street, haven't you?—Very seldom.

You have seen flowers bought there?—Yes, but I have not taken much notice.

Do you know these cannot be stolen without a value being placed upon them? Do you know that a daisy cannot be stolen?—No.

You cannot steal a daisy?—If I saw a person stealing a daisy and trespassing on crown land I would arrest him.

Why didn't you arrest the defendant for trespassing?—Because I did not see him on the land.

(Chinese detective 131 said he was in company of the last witness and met the defendant carrying a basket of flowers. Witness asked him where he picked them and defendant replied on the hill. Asked where he was employed defendant said he was with the taipan in Butterfield and Swires. In reply to further questions defendant said he did not pick the flowers from the hillside daily but once a week.

Cross-examined.—Have you any experience in buying flowers?—No.

How much would you get that basket for?—Thirty cents or thereabout.

Supposing you were going along the road with a basket of flowers would you have stopped me?—I would have asked you where you got them from.

Mr. S. T. Dum, superintendent of afforestation, said he had been asked to explain the reason why the Government wished to stop this practice. It was because the flowering shrubs at the Peak were getting scarce; in fact throughout the Colony they were much less plentiful than they used to be. The Government at present was planting out azalias, hydrangeas, and other plants on crown lands at the Peak.

His Worship—Wild crown lands or enclosed crown lands?—On the hillside.

Witness added that so far as his department was concerned there was no objection to moderate quantities of flowers being taken, but Chinese went out regularly and took away large quantities. One or two shrubs would be destroyed as a consequence of the flowers produced being pulled.

Cross-examined.—No notice has been sent round to the European residents informing them of this?—No, there are notices put up in Chinese.

I suppose you know that the European residents are not aware that this is an offence?—Oh, yes they know. Their coolies have been fined for the offence and that is common knowledge.

The Government have only recently prosecuted in these cases?—Oh, no. There have been prosecutions ever since I came to the Colony in 1903.

Witness added that it was a peculiar practice which obtained here of sending out servants to pick flowers from the hillside. He did not know whether this man had been sent out but he presumed that he had.

This concluded the case for the prosecution.

Mr. Jackson argued that the charge was brought under the Metropolitan Police Act of home and consequently he would contend that his Worship had no jurisdiction. He submitted that wild flowers were not goods and could not be the subject of a larceny at common law.

His Worship reaffirmed the conviction.

Mr. Jackson asked his Worship to state a case.

THE OBSERVATORY.

The report of the Director of the Hongkong Observatory for the year 1907 is published in the Gazette. It states:

The comparison of weather-forecasts, issued daily about noon, with the weather subsequently experienced, has been conducted on the same system as heretofore (compare Annual Report for 1896 §5). The results are as follows:—

Success 57 per cent., partial success 32 per cent., failure 1 per cent., partial failure 10 per cent.

Following the method used in meteorological offices, and taking the sum of total and partial success as a measure of success, and the sum of total and partial failure as a measure of failure, it follows that 89 per cent. of the weather-forecasts were successful in 1907.

2 The China Coast Meteorological Register was printed every morning at the Observatory by the Government Printers. About 70 copies were distributed in the City daily at about 1 p.m. Information regarding storms was also telegraphed to Hongkong and exhibited on the various notice boards as often as such telegrams could be justified by the weather observations received. This occurred on 101 days in 1907.

3 In connection with storm-warnings the staff was increased in August by the appointment of another computer. This permits of a computer being on duty at night throughout the year.

4 The following signals in connection with typhoons were hoisted during the year:—Red South cone and Red Drum twice, Red South Cone alone once, Red South Cone and Red Ball once, Red Ball alone once, Black South Cone alone four times, Black South Cone and Black Ball four times, Black Ball alone once, Black North Cone and Black Ball once. The No. 1 night signal was hoisted five times, and the No. 2 night signal eight times.

5 By the new code of signals the typhoon gun, which was fired formerly whenever a strong gale was expected to blow in the Colony, is dispensed with. Its place is not fully taken by the bombs which are to be fired only when the wind is expected to reach fully typhoon force. The new night signals, mounted on the roof of the Water Police Station at Tsim-Tsa-Tsui in July last, proved useful on several occasions. These signals are repeated at the Harbour Office and on board H.M.S. "Tamar" and are thus visible in all parts of the harbour.

6 With the co-operation of the Honourable the Harbour Master, a barometer was fixed at Waglan and observations from thence have been telegraphed to the Observatory daily since June last. These observations, carefully made by the lighthouse staff, although not of the first importance as are those made at Gap Rock, have been of considerable assistance, the more particularly as owing to the interruption of the Cable, observations from the latter station were not available throughout the year. The cable has however, since been repaired and observations from the lighthouse are now promptly received here.

7 The Director of the Meteorological Service in Phulián kindly arranged to have the

Morning observations at the stations in Indo-China whose reports we receive, made at an earlier hour, and as a result these observations now usually reach the Observatory in time to be incorporated in the China Coast Meteorological Register which is a distinct advantage. The observations made at Hoibow and Pakhoi continue to reach Hongkong too late to be of any service. Representations are being made by the Government with reference to this matter and although some slight improvement has been effected no practical advantage at present can be derived from these observations.

8. The thanks of the Government are due to the Telegraph Companies who continue to forward meteorological telegrams from outposts to Hongkong, free of charge; and also to the staffs of the Eastern Extension and Australasian Telegraph Company at Sharp Peak, Iloilo, Bacolod and Cebu who make and transmit observations twice daily.

9. Telegraphic connection with Victoria was interrupted as follows:—January 29th, 9.30 a. to 31st, 10.25 a.; March 26th, 10.50 a. to 28th, 11.5 a.; July 2nd, 8.25 a. to 10.20 a.; 2 th, 5.30 p. to 30th, 10.0 a.; August 20th, 11.55 a. to 20 p.; September 13th, 10.0 p. to 15th, 11.5 a., 16th, 11.0 a. to 18th, 8.55 a.; November 20th, 6.10 p. to 21st, 9.40 a.; December 11.0 a. to 4.30 p. Interruptions occurred therefore on 19 days, and, of course, during thunderstorms.

10 During 1907, in addition to meteorological registers kept at 40 stations on shore, 2,685 ship logs have been copied on board or forwarded by the Captains. The total number of vessels, whose log-books have been made use of, was 325. The total number of days' observations (counting separately those made on board different ships on the same day) was 19,740.

11 The entry of observations made at sea in degree squares for the area between 9 deg. South and 45 deg. North Latitude, and between the longitude of Singapore and 180 deg. East of Greenwich, has been continued by Miss Doberok and 324,954 in all have now been entered.

12. The typhoons of 1907 have been investigated and the track will be published as soon as possible.

13. Meteorological instruments forwarded by observers who regularly send their registers to the Observatory are verified here free of cost. During the past year several hundred barometers and aneroids on board ship were compared with our standard.

14. In 1907 the number of transits observed was 460. The axis of the transit instrument was levelled 278 times and the azimuth and collimation errors were determined 16 times by aid of the meridian mark. The whole of these observations have been made by Mr. Plummer. No alterations have been made in any of the standard clocks during the year, but the Mean Time Clock which is in electrical connection with the Time Ball has been cleaned. The going of all the clocks has been fairly satisfactory.

15. The Time Ball is not dropped on Sundays nor on Government holidays. There were no failures during 1907. On one occasion (Aug. 3) after a typhoon the line was in contact with others and the ball could not be dropped. After December 7 the ball was not dropped as the apparatus was in course of removal to Signal Hall. It was resumed at the new site on January 8th, 1908. It was dropped successfully 231 times in 1907. The probable error was in January + os. 16, in February + os. 16, in March + os. 15, in April + os. 12, in May + os. 16, in June + os. 14, in July + os. 16, in August + os. 14, in September + os. 13, in October + os. 13, in November + os. 18 and in December + os. 9.

16. The cisterns of the barograph and standard barometers are placed 109 feet above Mean Sea Level. The bulbs of the thermometers are rotated 108 feet above Mean Sea Level and 4 feet above the grass. The Solar radiation thermometers are placed at the same height. The rim of the rain-gauge is 105 feet above Mean Sea Level and 21 inches above the ground.

17. The meteorological instruments in use are of the standard patterns adopted in British and Colonial Observatories. The most important part of the equipment is fully described in the annual report of the Director for 1884.

18 The rainfall in inches recorded by the gauge placed in the Police Compound at Tai Po, New Territories, was as follows:—January 3.70, February 0.07, March 0.21, April 12.29, May 10.15, June 9.97, July 7.20, August 18.79, September 30.26, October 10.58, November 1.38, December 1.56, the total for the year 1907 being 106.16 inches, or about 13 per cent. above the amount recorded at this Observatory.

19 The Director, Dr. W. Doberok, went on leave at the end of May and retired on pension in September after 24 years' service. I was appointed to fill the vacancy so caused, and consequent on these changes Mr. C. W. Jeffries, formerly at the Royal Observatory, Cape of Good Hope, was appointed first assistant and arrived in the Colony in October last.

CRIME IN THE COLONY.

The report of the Captain Superintendent of Police and of the Superintendent of Fire Brigade for 1908 states:

The total of all cases reported to the police was 11,540 as against 11,144 in 1906 being an increase of 396 or 3.55 per cent.

In the division of these cases into Serious and Minor Offences there appears a decrease as compared with 1906 of 27 cases or 81 per cent. in the former and an increase of 423 cases or 5.41 per cent. in the latter.

The decrease, as compared with 1906 in Serious Offences of 27 is shown as follows:—

DECREASE.	
Robbery	13
Unlawful Possession	229
	242

INCREASE.	
Murder	6
Burglary or Larceny from dwelling	58
Kidnapping and Protection of Women and Children	10
Larceny	109
Felonies not already given	32
	215

Nett Decrease.....27

2. Table I shows the number and character of the Serious and Minor Offences reported to the Police during the past year, and the number of persons convicted and discharged in connection with these offences.

3. On the 7th of March Chan Sing, Master of Cargo-boat No. 7468, reported that while he, his wife, and a brother were going in a small boat from the Harbour Master's Pier to his Cargo-boat, his boat was capsized by the back-wash from a steam-launch. The occupants he said were precipitated into the water and his wife drowned.

One day later the body was picked up and there were several wounds on the head. It is supposed that the husband and his brother hit the woman on the head with an oar and threw her into the water and made the report to cover their crime. Both men absconded after making the report. No arrest has yet been made.

On the 25th of March Cheung Tai, age 30, a gardener residing in a married with his mother and a man named Yin Hung and his family at Telegraph Bay, Pokfulam, ran amok with a chopper and attacked Yin Hung and his two children aged 3 and 6 respectively. Yin Hung died from his injuries before he reached the Hospital. The younger of the two children recovered and the elder died on the 7th of April from his injuries. Cheung Tai was convicted of murder and sentenced to be hanged, the sentence was commuted to penal servitude for life.

On the 3rd of April at about 5.30 a.m. the body of Cheung Kiu, a widow, age about 45 years, residing alone in a house at No. 6 San Shan in the Hung Hom District, was found dead on the floor of her house by a neighbour who saw the door open. From the appearance of the body and medical testimony death was probably the result of strangulation, a piece of cord was tightly fastened round the neck and robbery appears to have been the motive for the crime. Deceased was known to have jewellery valued over \$100 and this she was wearing the day before her death. When the body was found the jewellery was missing. No arrest.

On the 4th of April a Japanese named Araki Tuzo, age 32 years, unemployed and of no fixed abode was attacked in a Japanese boarding house at 55 Connaught Road Central by a number of Japanese men who stabbed him on the head and body with knives and swords causing such injuries that he died before removal to Hospital. Tuzo the deceased man was the head of a party who imported Japanese women for immoral purposes and some differences arose between some of the party when it was suspected that Tuzo was not acting honestly towards his own party. They decided to remove him and appoint some one else as their head. Some of the party set off in search of Tuzo who apparently took shelter in the boarding house where they found him and murdered him. Four men were arrested and indicted for murder; they were found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to ten years hard labour each. A number of others connected with the party were arrested and banished from the Colony.

On the 15th of May an Indian named Melo, age 40 years, employed as a watchman by Essaboy & Co., who lived at No. 4 Hing Lung Lane East, West Point, was murdered in his hut by other Indians who no doubt went there to rob him. Deceased was known to have \$400 in his box, the box was found by the Police broken open and the money and other property stolen. Six Indians were arrested, four of whom were convicted of murder and sentenced to be hanged. The sentence was commuted to penal servitude for life. The charge against the other two was withdrawn.

On the 21st of July about 10 a.m. To Cheung, age 30, employed as a foreman in Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co.'s aerated water factory was found lying in Des Vœux Road near the Taiwan Bank in a dying condition with a wound in the region of his heart. The man died before removal to Hospital. It appears that deceased had been the means of causing the dismissal from the Factory of one or two men who were slack in their work; this led to a fight and resulted in the man's death. Five men were arrested; 3 were convicted and sentenced to be hanged, one was hanged, in the case of the other two the sentence was commuted to penal servitude for life and two were discharged—no information filed against them.

The conduct of the European contingent of the Police Force has been on the whole good. The total number of reports against them was 56 as against 59 in 1906. There were 16 reports for being drunk or under the influence of drink as against 10 in 1906; one for sleeping on duty (same as last year), 3 for disorderly conduct and 2 for neglect of duty. Nine of the 16 cases of drunkenness, and 15 of the other offences, were committed by men who are no longer in the Force. One European Constable was convicted by the Police Magistrate for being drunk and incapable when off duty, one for assault and one for desertion. 90 men had no offence recorded against them.

The conduct of the Indian contingent was fair. There were 465 reports, as against 448 for the preceding year. For drunkenness there were 61 as against 45, for disorderly conduct 23, as against 33, for neglect of duty 52 as against 46, for absence from duty 51 as against 65, for gossiping and idling on duty 91 as against 107 and for sleeping on duty 40 as against 35. Anxiety to get away to Canada caused men to commit themselves in order to be released from their engagements. 211 men had no report. Nine Indian Constables were convicted by the Police Magistrate, 5 for assault, 1 for indecent behaviour, 1 for being drunk and unfit for duty, 1 for disobeying orders and 1 for larceny.

The behaviour of the Chinese contingent showed improvement. There were altogether 1,086 reports, as against 1,129 in 1906. There were five reports for drunkenness as against 1,104 for sleeping on duty as against 113, 11 for disorderly conduct as against 23, and 356 for minor offences as against 337.

Two sergeant interpreters were convicted by the Police Magistrate, 1 for larceny and 1 for forging the signature of a European sergeant and eight Constables for the following offences: 3 for assault, 1 for giving false testimony, 3 for demanding money by menaces and 1 for larceny.

167 men of this contingent were not reported during the year.

The seamen, coxswains, engineers and stokers had 228 reports as compared with 300 for last year. For drunkenness there was no report (same as last year), 12 for absence from Station & late for duty as against 193 in the previous year.

Two seamen were convicted by the Police Magistrate, one for fighting and one for larceny; and one engineer for assault.

63 had no report recorded against them.

Two European sergeants were granted medals for smart and energetic detective work and one Chinese constable was granted a medal for long and faithful service; two Chinese constables were granted rewards for zeal displayed in the discharge of their duty and one Chinese constable was commended by His Excellency the Governor and granted a reward for plucky conduct in arresting a soldier for robbery. A European lance sergeant and a European constable were commended for rescuing two Chinese from drowning.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

The report of the District Officer and Collector on the New Territories (Mr. E. R. Hallifax) for 1917 is printed as an appendix to the report of the Captain Superintendent of Police for last year.

1. The change of most importance during the year has of course been the beginning of the Railway. A great number of New Territories natives have found employment in connection with it, and they have done well out of it—so well in fact that the minimum monthly rate of wages has gone up from \$7.30 to \$9 for any kind of unskilled work; a rate as high as that obtaining in Hongkong. In spite of this however the construction work has not been an unmixed blessing even to the natives themselves; the kind of adventurer that is attracted to any spot newly busy has been quite sufficiently evidence all along the line, and seems unfortunately to have done fairly well. And this in spite of a marked absence of serious crime; his profits have been made by methods which laid him open only to civil action. A great number of cases of this kind have been brought to Tai Po during the year, and while a number have been more or less successfully settled, the task is getting a more and more difficult one. Debtors are beginning to see the advantage of being obdurate, for the Summary Court in Hongkong has more terror for their creditors than for them. Partly due perhaps to a number of cases of this kind, and partly also to the closer intercourse with imported coolies and outside traders is the rather regrettable fact that the natives on this side of the country are showing signs of becoming civilised—of losing, that is, their own proper simplicity.

2. As compared with the Railway, nothing of any great note has occurred during the year. The readiness with which the Crown Rent was paid—it could hardly be taken fast enough—was a pleasing sign of a growing prosperity and of content with things as they are. Other signs are not wanting that the condition of the population is improving; the making of several roads by private village enterprise, of a kind much superior to anything here existing before 1898; the erection of a number of new houses, though any advance in this is perhaps counterbalanced by the fact that quite a number have also been vacated. As far as can be seen however the reasons for this desertion are mostly particular the houses are inferior ones which would not pay for repair, something has occurred to ruin their *Fung Shui*, or the owners have died without heirs; they contain nothing to discount the idea of a generally increasing prosperity. The markets are busy—those at a distance from the line as well as the nearer ones; and local capitalists seem to have been studying the railway methods with a view of starting works of their own—preferably brick-making. Best of all, there has been very marked reduction in the cases of serious crime reported—and this in spite of the fact that the state of things over the border seems to be no better than it ever was.

3. The one great want of the country is proper roads. Quite a few of the local business men are waiting to put into practice the lesson they have learnt from the railway bullock carts,

and the opening of the new Ping Shan to Castle Peak Road is very keenly looked forward to as the beginning of a proper road system. As long as there is no internal communication in the Territories, local enterprise has little opportunity; when the opportunity offers, there is not a little capital ready to take advantage of it to the full.

COMMERCIAL.

RICE.

The Saigon Rice Market according to latest advices, is quiet. Messrs. Wm. G. Hale & Co. in their Circular dated 3rd inst., quote for May and June delivery:—

No. 2 White sifted (<i>trié</i>) steam milled round	
No. 2 White unsifted (<i>ordinaire</i>) steam milled round	\$3.72
5 % Cargo steam milled round ...	3.22
10 % Cargo steam milled round ...	3.18
20 % Cargo steam milled round ...	3.12
* Prices according to terms and conditions.	

The following is a statement of this year's Exports of White Rice, Cargo Rice and Paddy from Saigon:—

Destination.	Previously	Since the 6th March.	Total pcs.
Hongkong.....	839,800	471,700	1,311,500
Ningpo	45,300	—	45,300
Manila	163,100	115,500	279,300
Iloilo.....	—	57,000	57,000
Cebu	111,300	116,600	227,900
Japan	45,100	299,200	344,300
Singapore	118,600	37,200	155,800
Batavia.....	85,500	—	85,503
Samarang	74,200	—	74,200
Passoeran	31,000	—	31,000
Sourabaya	448,100	33,000	481,100
Noumea.....	—	24,000	24,000
Europe	98,500	711,100	809,600

Total..... 2,068,200 1,865,300 3,926,500

Same period of last year..... 5,349,600

Tonnage.—Quotations stand as follows: 13 1/4 cents to Hongkong; 22/23 cents to Java; 25/26 cents to the Philippines; 22/23 cents to Japan and 14/15 cents to Singapore.

Charters.—The following are the settlements:—

	piculs	Cts. per picul
Br.s.s. Lennox Park Cargo 50,000 to H.K. at 14		Rice
Br.s.s. Chatham	50,000	14
Ger.s.s. Landrat Scheiff 36,000	36,000	15
Ger.s.s. Ithaka	38,000	15
Br.s.s. Pheum-penh	30,000	14
Ger.s.s. Sexta	36,000	13 1/2

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 2nd April, 1908.—Since the 19th ultimo, the movements in the various Opium markets have been as follows:—

	Malwa	Patna	Benares	Persian
Stocks on the 19th March, 1908	331	1,199	603	741
Mar. 20th, Imports per <i>Malwa</i>	191	100	—	9
" 20th " " <i>Japan</i>	—	375	—	—
" 24th " " <i>Lightning</i>	—	690	360	—
" 31st " " <i>Namang</i>	—	350	235	—

	522	2,714	1,138	750
Less Exports to Shanghai	61	514	234	—
" Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight	146	667	141	15

Estimated Stocks this day .. 315 1,533 813 735

Bengal.—Prices have moved up owing to good consumption. Patna at \$1050 and Benares at \$1015.

Malwa.—The market has advanced \$20 to \$30 and quotations are as follows:

2 years old	\$980
3/4 "	1,020/30
oldest	1,070/80

Persian.—Unchanged.

HONGKONG, April 10th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$970	to	—	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$990	to	—	do.
Malwa Older	\$1000/20	to	—	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1060	to	—	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$800	to	—	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$380	to	—	do.
Patna New	\$1050	to	—	per chest.
Patna Old	—	to	—	do.
Benares New	\$1012 1/2	to	—	do.
Benares Old	\$—	to	—	do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co. of Shanghai, in their Piece Goods Report, for 2nd April, state:—There is no improvement to report, the market being in state of absolute collapse! Hope deferred is telling the same old tale, and many importers are verging on despair. The long-looked-for improvement in the demand this spring has utterly failed, and the offtake so far shows a large decrease in most items as compared with last year, this being especially so in the case of American goods. It is noticeable, however, with regard to these latter goods that not a single piece of either Drills, Jeans or Sheetings have been imported this year so far at this port, though according to the official returns 1,298,319 yards Domestic were exported to the Chinese Empire during December 1907, possibly to Tientsin direct. It is difficult to understand the apathy with which this trade is now being treated by the country at large. It is certainly beyond question that the stocks in the consuming districts are abnormally light as a rule, and yet there is some influence at work that is seriously curtailing the consumption. The prices importers have had to accept are not extravagantly high, and yet even with the improving means of communication the trade shows no development. We fear the unsatisfactory state of the currency of the country is at the bottom of it all, and until some homogeneous system is adopted, and the iniquitous indirect taxation in the shape of likin is abolished foreign trade must languish. It is worthy of note that during the interval a further progressive step has been advanced, Nanking being now within seven hours of Shanghai by the completion of the railway to that city. Unfortunately its value as a means of transportation is being completely nullified by the exorbitant likin squeezes that are being levied at every available point. The reaction in Cotton foregrounded in our last, has caused a slightly steadier feeling in Manchester, but no confidence is placed in it here as yet, and generally speaking forward transactions are being avoided. The effect of the new Mills is being seriously felt, and although the older concerns are inclined to curtail supplies more in accordance with the demand they do not wish to encourage their new competitors by giving them a clear field to exploit, the consequence being that prices are down to bed rock. The Liverpool daily quotations for Mid American Cotton have steadily advanced until 5.77d. was received this morning, "Futures" were quoted yesterday 5.29d. against 5.70d. for "Spot." Egyptian is steady at 7 1/2d. The export of Plain Cottons last month to Hongkong and China was 29,000,000 yards, Dyed Cottons, 7,900,000 yards and prints 700,000 yards. There is no particular news from New York, except that Cotton has recovered to 9.77 cents for July option. The Yarn market has been active again in both Indian and Local Spinings, and clearances of both continue excellent, which is the most pleasing feature of the market. Cotton has kept steady owing to buying by the Local Mills. The current business in Piece Goods has been very quiet, Native buyers being fully impressed with the idea that prices here must decline in sympathy with Manchester. The Auctions have shown a much weaker tendency throughout, particularly noticeable in Turkey Reds and Fast Black Cotton Italians.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co. of Shanghai in their Fortnightly Produce Circular, dated 2nd April, say:—Gallnuts.—Little business is being done, dealers asking exaggerated figures. Cowhides.—Dealers anxious to realize and are reducing their prices. A good business is the result. Feathers.—Considerable stocks; demand poor. Cotton.—Market weak owing to total absence of orders from Japan. Tallow.—Market very quiet. Strawbraid.—There has been a brisk demand from Europe for White Braids, and the market has been nearly cleared of same. Shansi and Laichow Mottled are also still in good demand, but very little comes forward, and only in poor quality. America is again asking for Fine Shingkee White, the only article wanted by that market at present, and there are no stocks left in good quality. Wool.—Sheep.—Considerable stocks; demand poor. Sesamum Seed.—White seed supplies are getting scarce. Fair business is done in the yellow seed. Wood Oil.—Good supplies are coming in. As the home markets have bought largely of late and are apt to pause we believe in somewhat lower prices in the near future. Antimony.—A fair business. Sellers are making concessions to close transactions.

STARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 10th April, 1908.—The market has ruled active, and although it received a check on a weakness in Banks, and in a somewhat weaker feeling in Sugars (the firmness in which two items last week was responsible to some extent for the improvement in the market reported by us), a fair business has been transacted, and the market closes generally steady to firm. Business put through has been chiefly in the smaller stocks, the larger and more important ones having been somewhat neglected. The better feeling reported in our last continues, and there is still more of a speculative demand than has existed for sometime. Exchange on London T/F ls. 10½d; on Shanghai 74½.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai: With a gradual fall on the London market to £73.10s, our market has ruled weak, and the rate fell to \$692½, without sales. At time of closing sellers rule the market at quotation, and it is most probable that a lower one would be accepted. Nationals continue in demand at 51 but no shares are available, and we have heard of no sales.

MARINE INSURANCES.—After further small sales of Unions at 84½ the market weakened and some small lots were put forward at 84½, at which latter rate we quote likely sellers. Yangtzes have declared a dividend of 25 per cent. for the 1906 s/c, but we have no local sales to report. Cantons and North Chinas remain unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires have improved to 307½, after small sales at 302½ and 305, the market closing with further buyers at 307½. China Fires have also improved and after sales at 89, are now enquired for at 93.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao continue neglected, and with the exception of small sales at 29 we have no business to report. At time of closing sellers at 29½ rule the market. Douglasses have changed hands at \$40, and more shares could be placed at that rate. Indos are ruling weak, and it looks as though lower rates may be looked for in face of a fall on the London market to £2.5s. for Deferred shares. China Manilas have further improved to 15, and close in demand at that rate. Star Ferries have advanced to 31, after sales at 30½ to 31, and close in further demand at the higher rate. Shells have been in request all the week at 45½ to 45½, without bringing any shares on the market.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars after closing firm at the end of last week, shewed a slight weakness in the early part of this and the limit of the recent rapid advance seems to have been reached, at any rate for the present. A few small sales were made at 133, but with further shares on offer buyers were not forthcoming and the market closes quiet with small sellers at 130. Luzons remain unchanged, & call for no remarks.

MINING.—Raubs have ruled very quiet and the demand reported last week having been satisfied, we have no further sales or demand to report, while the market closes with sellers at 8.10 Chinese Engineerings are wanted in the North at 15½/16, but there appear to be no shares available, and we have heard of no business. Langkats have declined to 455.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have declined to 98 with sales, but close with buyers at that rate. Kowloon Lands have found further buyers at 25, and a few more could be placed at that. West Points are obtainable at 49. Humphreys have been done at 10, and at time of closing are wanted to a limited extent. Hongkong Hotels remain out of favour, and are obtainable at 97 without inducing buyers to come forward. Shanghai Lands have improved in the North to 113½ with buyers, but we have heard of no local sales.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled firmer and with a small demand the rate has risen to 103½ with sales and buyers. Kowloon Wharves remain neglected at 53, and we have no sales to report. Shanghai Docks have ruled steady in the North at 80. Hongkew Wharves have been further rushed up in the North to 227, but at time of closing are rather quieter at 224.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have advanced in Shanghai to 55½, other Northern Mills remaining unchanged. Hongkong Cottons have been enquired for, and after small sales at from 9 to 10 close steady at the latter rate.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos have been placed at 11 and 10½, closing with sellers at the former rate. China Providents have found buyers at 8½ and 9, closing with buyers at the former, and sellers at the latter rate. Dairy Farms and Electrics have improved to 18 and 16, without any business to report. Ropes, Union Waters, and China Lights have advanced to 28, 11 and 6, respectively, with sales at those and at rates intermediate between them and last week's quotations. Cements have changed hands during the week at 11 and 11½, closing fairly steady at the higher rate. We learn that the General Managers and the Consulting Committee have decided to pay a final dividend of 75 cents per share. Watsons have been in some demand at 10 and a fair number of shares have changed hands at that rate.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$692½, sellers London £73-10.
National B. of China	28	\$51, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7½
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$11, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	{ \$10 } { \$1 }	\$8, buyers
China Provident	\$10	\$8½, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 55½
Hongkong	\$10	\$10
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 55
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 75
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 260
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$18, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$53, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$103, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$10
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 80, sal. & buy.
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 224, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$13, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$11½, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$16, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$97, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$225
H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	\$150
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$28, buyers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$240, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$90, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$91, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$307½, buyers
North China	\$25	Tls. 81, buyers
Union	\$100	\$840, sales { \$147½ } { \$137½ }
Yangtze	\$60	
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$98, sales & buy.
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$10, sales & buy.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$25, sales & buy.
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 113½
West Point Building	\$50	\$49
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$540, buyers
Raubs	18/10	\$810, sellers
Peak Tramways	{ \$10 } { \$1 }	\$13 \$2, sellers
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$8, buyers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$13
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$15
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$15, sales & buy.
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$40, sales
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$29½, sellers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	\$5	\$38 \$26
Shell Transport Co.	\$1	45/- buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$31
Do. New	\$5	\$15½
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$23, buyers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$8, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$15, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$5
Watkins	\$10	\$2½
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$10, sales
Wiesmann Ltd.	\$100	\$165
United Asbestos	\$4	\$11, buyers
Do. Founders	\$10	\$150, buyers
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$11, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s share report for the week ending 2nd April, states:—The March Settlement took place on the 27th instant and passed off satisfactorily. Since then business has been fairly active and we have to record a smart rise in Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat shares. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves have not varied to any extent since last week's report. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Shares have changed hands at \$712½ and there are further buyers at this rate. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/6. Marine and Fire Insurance.—There is no business reported. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. Co. A sale of preference shares has taken place at Tls. 80, and of the deferred at Tls. 16. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd. There have been no transactions reported this week, Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves: Our market opened on the 26th somewhat irregularly, rates varying between Tls. 217 and Tls. 222. On the Settlement Day a good demand set in for cash shares and a considerable business was transacted at Tls. 220 to Tls. 222½. A single sale was reported at Tls. 225. There was no business on Saturday, but on Monday cash shares were disposed of at Tls. 220 with a sale reported at Tls. 225 for June. Since that time the market has been quiet and closing rates are Tls. 218½ cash and Tls. 224 for June. Sugar.—No business reported this week. Mining.—Ditto. Lands.—We have to report a considerable advance in this stock. The market opening at Tls. 106 and a very strong demand the whole week having carried the rate to Tls. 110, large lots of shares have been dealt in and the market closes steady. Industrial.—Ewo Cottons have been in some demand at Tls. 55 cash and Tls. 56 for June. Shanghai Gas Co.: Many transactions have taken place at Tls. 106. China Flour Mills have been dealt in at Tls. 50. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats: On the 26th the market opened with cash shares quoted at Tls. 445, and Tls. 457½ for June. Immediately the Settlement was over a demand for shares improved the rate to Tls. 447½, and Tls. 462½, subsequently followed by a sale at Tls. 465. Several orders for cash shares coming simultaneously cleared the market at Tls. 450, and rates advanced in one spurt to Tls. 455, and Tls. 460. Considerable business was done yesterday at the latter figure, while for June rates at Tls. 470 and Tls. 472½ prevailed, the market closing steady. Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.: A further decline has taken place since our last issue, and sales have been reported at Tls. 90 for June and Tls. 87½ for cash. There is some demand at these rates. Shanghai Electric Construction Co.: Shares have declined to 211 sellers. Miscellaneous.—There has not been any business of importance. Loans and Debentures.—Six per cent. Municipal Debentures have been placed at Tls. 99½. Chinese Government Imperial Loans have been dealt in at par.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 3rd April.—There has been a fair demand for tonnage during the period under review, but rates show no improvement. From Saigon to Hongkong, owing to a rise in price of rice locally during the early part of last week, several steamers were taken up at 13½ to 15 cents per picul, but at time of writing not more than 14½ cents is obtainable for small carriers, the rice market here closing very weak. To Philippines, one fixture reported at 25 cents for Manila, 12 cents per picul extra for Tabaco and Legaspi. To North Coast Java, 24 cents last. To Japan and other ports, no inquiry. From Bangkok to Hongkong, a handy sized carrier taken up for 2 trips at 30/23 cents per picul. From Java to Hongkong and Java, no demand. From Philippines, Outwards, nothing doing. From Newchwang to Canton, 25 cents last and 26 cents offering. Coal freights remain steady. From South Japan Coal port to Hongkong, \$1.40 last; to Singapore, \$1.70; to Canton, \$2.25. From Hongway to Hongkong, \$1.40; to Canton, \$1.80 to \$2.00 per ton according to size. Time charter. The Landrat Scheff has been closed at \$7,500 per month for one option one trip hence to Salina Cruz and back. The following are the settlements:—
Reidar—Norwegian steamer, 2,276 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.
Marcellus—German steamer, 2,436 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.
Kowloon—German steamer, 1,479 tons, Wakamatsu to Canton, \$2.25 per ton.
Oceano—British steamer, 1,739 tons, Wakamatsu to Canton, \$2.25 per ton.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

April—

ARRIVALS.

- 1, Minnesota, American str., from Seattle.
- 2, Benalder, British str., from London.
- 2, Choising, German str., from Bangkok.
- 2, Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.
- 2, Nord, Norwegian str., from Iloilo.
- 2, Oscar II, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 2, Shikano Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 2, Standard, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
- 2, Tamsui, British str., from Swatow.
- 3, Delhi, British str., from Yokohama.
- 3, Dufferin, Brit. troopship, from Karachi.
- 3, Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 3, Fukura Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 3, Joshin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 3, Petchaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
- 3, Sexta, German str., from Saigon.
- 3, Silesia, German str., from Singapore.
- 4, Chingtu, British str., from Sydney.
- 4, Ghazee, British str., from Singapore.
- 4, Kiukiang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 4, Kwangtab, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Achilles, British str., from Liverpool.
- 5, Amigo, German str., from Haiphong.
- 5, Bangkok, German str., from Bangkok.
- 5, Fiume, German str., from Tonkin.
- 5, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 5, Levanzo, Italian str., from Singapore.
- 5, Nerite, Dutch str., from Swatow.
- 5, Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.
- 5, Tosa Maru, Jap. str., from Seattle.
- 5, Wray Castle, British str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Bessi, Dollar, British str., from Moji.
- 6, E. of Japan, British str., from Vancouver.
- 6, Foo sang, British str., from Moji.
- 6, Kita Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 6, Laisang, British str., from Calcutta.
- 6, Oceano, British str., from Wakamatsu.
- 6, Pakling, British str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Prinzess Alice, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
- 6, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
- 6, Toonau, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Alesia, German str., from Portland.
- 7, Borneo, British str., from Yokohama.
- 7, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
- 7, Heim, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 7, Hongbee, British str., from Penang.
- 7, Kiangping, Chinese str., from Chinkiang.
- 7, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Matilda Korner, Ger. str., from Hongay.
- 7, Quinta, German str., from Singapore.
- 7, Samsen, German str., from Bangkok.
- 7, Siberia, Am. str., from San Francisco.
- 7, Takasaki Maru, Jap. str., from Japan.
- 7, Wongkoi, German str., from Bangkok.
- 7, Yorek, German str., from Hamburg.
- 8, Arron, British str., from San Francisco.
- 8, Anchenblae, British str., from Newcastle.
- 8, Belgravia, German str., from Shanghai.
- 8, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Swatow.
- 8, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 8, Koh ichang, German str., from Bangkok.
- 8, Nanchang, Brit. str., from Newchwang.
- 8, Paoting, British str., from Amoy.
- 8, Singan, British str., from Haiphong.
- 8, Triumph, German str., from Haiphong.
- 9, Borneo, German str., from Sandakan.
- 9, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Heliopolis, British str., from Chinwantao.
- 9, Kaisow, British str., from Keelung.
- 9, Landrat Scheiff, Ger. str., from Saigon.
- 9, Michael Jensen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 9, Pheumphen, British str., from Saigon.
- 9, Prometheus, Norw. str., from Bangkok.

April—

DEPARTURES.

- 3, C. Diederichsen, German str., for Hoihow.
- 3, Chowtai, German str., for Hoihow.
- 3, Devanha, British str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Indien, Danish str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Korea, American str., for San Francisco.
- 3, Namsang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Suizang, British str., for Moji.
- 3, Tatan Maru, Japanese str., for Hiogo.
- 3, Wahamatsu Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
- 4, Be alder, British str., for Nagasaki.
- 4, Delhi, British str., for Europe, &c.
- 4, Glenogle, British str., for Amoy.
- 4, Hitachi Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
- 4, Mandal, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
- 4, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Strathleven, British str., for Saigon.
- 4, Tamsui, British str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Tjipanas, Dutch str., for Saigon.
- 4, Yochow, British str., for Shanghai.

- 4, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
- 4, Zsifro, British str., for Manila.
- 5, Appalachee, British str., for Palembang.
- 5, Cuihli, British str., for Hoihow.
- 5, Haitau, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 5, Ithaka, German str., for Chingkiang.
- 5, J. Diederichsen, German str., for Swatow.
- 5, Joshin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 5, Loyal, German str., for Saigon.
- 5, Nanshan, British str., for Hongay.
- 5, Nork, Norwegian str., for Tsingtau.
- 5, Prinz Waldemar, Ger. str., for Yokohama.
- 5, Rajaburi, German str., for Swatow.
- 5, Signal, German str., for Haiphong.
- 5, Taiwan, British str., for Saigon.
- 5, Tjikini, Dutch str., for Batavia.
- 5, Yatshing, British str., for Kebau.
- 6, Chunsang, British str., for Singapore.
- 6, Silesia, German str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Achilles, British str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Langbank, British str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Lightning, British str., for Singapore.
- 7, Loosok, German str., for Swatow.
- 7, Nerite, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Pakling, British str., for Singapore.
- 7, Protus, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 7, Quarta, German str., for Saigon.
- 7, Tean, British str., for Manila.
- 8, Amigo, German str., for Haiphong.
- 8, Ghazee, British str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
- 8, Mathilde, German str., for Haiphong.
- 8, Paklat, German str., for Hoihow.
- 8, Prinzess Alice, German str., for Europe.
- 8, Quinta, German str., for Swatow.
- 8, Tangus, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
- 8, Wray Castle, British str., for Manila.
- 8, Yorek, German str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Borneo, British str., for London.
- 9, Cheongsing, British str., for Tientsin.
- 9, Choising, German str., for Bangkok.
- 9, E. of India, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
- 9, Fukura Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
- 9, Hanoi, French str., for K. C. Wan.
- 9, Hongbee, British str., for Amoy.
- 9, Kita Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.
- 9, Kwongsang, British str., for Ningpo.
- 9, Merapi, Dutch str., for Amoy.
- 9, Rubi, British str., for Amoy and Manila.
- 9, Spir, Norwegian str., for Yonaganpo.
- 9, Takasaki Maru, Jap. str., for Bombay.
- 9, Toonau, Chinese str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Laisang*, from Calcutta, Mrs. Arton Daws, Dr. Kelly and Mr. Moir.

Per *Prinz Waldemar*, from Sydney, &c., for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Eleg, Baron von Spiezfeldt, Rittmeister von Heimendahl, Messrs. N. K. Davidson, J. W. Krueger, J. K. Ohl & Heisler; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Briggs, Mr. and Mrs. Beck, Mr. and Mrs. John Patton, Mrs. Egbert, Mrs. Goldsborough, Mrs. M. A. Kolt, Rev. and Mrs. Laughlin, children and servant, Miss Docker, Miss Crabtree, Count Winterfeldt, Dr. Nielsen, Messrs. Ernst Michels, Larsen and H. Barnard.

Per *Siberia*, from San Francisco, &c., for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Bourne, Mr. and Mrs. Roy. L. Marston, Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Phelps, Mr. and Mrs. John J. Walton, Mrs. O. A. Allen, Mrs. H. C. Hawkins, Mrs. M. Peggam, Mrs. H. C. Turner, Miss Rebecca Atkinson, Miss Nettie Barraclough, Miss A. Hastings, Miss F. Walton, Miss L. Walton, Miss F. Whitcombe, Commander J. P. Parker, U.S.N., Messrs. F. B. Brewer, R. B. Gregory, Chas. D. Hinman and nurse, J. A. Hoffman, J. McCarthy, J. J. McDonough, O. P. Schaffer, B. A. Smith, H. True and H. F. Yoder.

Per *America Maru*, from San Francisco, &c., Hon. and Mrs. A. W. Hastings, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Willard, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. de Weese, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Grove, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. McKillop, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. H. Weise, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. H. Bright, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Willard, two children and nurse, Mrs. A. Rogers, Mrs. W. H. Braedley, Mrs. R. J. Mackenzie, Mrs. E. P. Houston and son, Mrs. Helen Smith, Mrs. M. J. Parkhurst, Miss Eva Cooper, Miss Grace Clawiter, Messrs. F. W. Terry, E. H. Heints, Wm. F. la Pointe, Frank T. Reising, H. B. Waterman, C. B. Stetson and A. Shickawa.

Myrtledene—British steamer, 1,620 tons, Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.
Mathilde Korner—German steamer, 1,847 tons, Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.
Michael Jensen—German steamer, 951 tons, Haiphong to Canton, \$1.90 per ton.

Landrat Scheiff—German steamer, 1,012 tons, 1/1 trip, hence to Salina Cruz and back at \$7,500 per month.

Eiger—Norwegian steamer, 870 tons, 3 trips, Bangkok to Hongkong, 30/23 cents per picul.

Nord—Norwegian steamer, 730 tons, Newchwang and Tairen to Canton (25,000), 25 cents per picul.

Tjipanas—Dutch steamer, 2,414 tons, Saigon to 1 port North Coast Java, 24 cents per picul (2,000 tons).

Skramstad—Norwegian steamer, 800 tons, Saigon to Manila (26,000), 25 cents Legaspi and Tabaco, 37 cents per picul.

Sexta—German steamer, 992 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13½ cents per picul.

Fri—Norwegian steamer, 859 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13½ cents per picul.

Pheumphen—British steamer, 1,665 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13½ cents per picul.

Landrat Scheiff—German steamer, 1,012 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

Frithjof—Norwegian steamer, 891 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14½ cents per picul.

Progress—German steamer, 799 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14½ cents per picul.

Ulu—Norwegian steamer, 834 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Fausang—British steamer, 1,440 tons, 15 cents per picul (re-charter).

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, April 13th

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/10½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10½

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	233½
Credits 4 months' sight	238½

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	190
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ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	4½
Credits, 60 days' sight	46½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	140½
Bank, on demand	140½

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	140½
Bank on demand	140½

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	74½
Private, 30 days' sight	75½

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	91
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ON MANILA.—

On demand	91½
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ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	24½ p.m.
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ON BATAVIA.—

On demand	112
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ON HAIPHONG.—

On demand	7 p.m.
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ON SAIGON.—

On demand	6½ p.m.
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ON BANGKOK.—

On demand	78
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SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate

	\$10.60
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GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael

	\$55.35
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BAR SILVER, per oz

	25½
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SUBSIDIARY COINS.

	per cent.
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Chinese 20 cents pieces	\$8.60 discount,
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" 10 " "	9.00 "
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Hongkong 20 " "	8.10 "
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" 10 " "	8.45 "
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FREIGHTS.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 30/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez), Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload, Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross; less than carload Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross plus river freight. To Shanghai.—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 to 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

Per *Haiching*, from Coast Ports, Miss Craig and Mr Vandellit.

Per *Kwanglee*, from Shanghai Mr and Mrs Kanbland and Mr Clemerts.

Per *Wray Castle*, from Shanghai, Com. Macnab, R.N.R., and Mr I. C. Diike.

Per *Tosa Maru*, from Seattle, &c., Messrs. E. E. Smith, Glonyes Reid and Henry C. Suttar.

Per *Haimun*, from Coast Ports, Mr and Mrs Richardson, 2 children and governess, Mrs Duncan, Messrs. Maxwell, Evensen and Tallasen.

Per *Teau*, from Manila, Miss Lawrence, Messrs. Morger, Benedict, Campbell, Meeker, Froehs, Tayler and Miller Clem, Mesdames Lawrence, Eppstein and Miller.

Per *Empress of Japan*, from Vancouver, for Hongkong, Mr W. W. Clark, for Manila, Mrs V. Palmer, Miss V. Russell, Miss J. Keith, Messrs. H. B. Prout and W. Evnbury.

Per *Yorck*, from Hamburg, &c., Mr and Mrs W. All n. Mr and Mrs Aug. Bergmann, Mr and Mrs James Barningham, Mr and Mrs Paul Busse, Mr and Mrs A. P. Brohier, Mr and Mrs Bonig and child, Mr and Mrs H. de Bruin and child, Mr and Mrs G. Curry and maid, Mr and Mrs Chapman, Mr and Mrs Cooper, Mr and Mrs H. Erkelers, Mr and Mrs H. Gummer, Mr and Mrs A. v. Huhn an maid, Mr and Mrs R. A. P. Hogan, Mr and Mrs J. Reginald Harding, Mr and Mrs John F. G. Hieber, Mr and Mrs F. Paget Hett, Mr and Mrs A. H. Hansen, Mr and Mrs Fritz Haumann, Mr and Mrs W. van der Haar, Mr and Mrs C. T. Mander, Mr and Mrs P. Blai Oliphant, Mr and Mrs Roosmelecoq and children, Mr and Mrs F. G. Sale, Mr and Mrs H. J. Tomalin and child, Mr and Mrs White, Mr and Mrs A. Wijnchen and child, Dr. and Mrs J. r. H. van der Goes, Dr. and Mrs Goldstein, Capt and Mrs T. Middleton, Capt. and Mrs Scarlett, Major and Mrs von Dani, child and maid, Rev. J. C. Nind and child, Bergrat and Mrs Fuchs, Baurat and Mrs Groffer, Mrs and Miss von Letten-Petersen, Mrs and Miss Maude, Mrs and Miss Reuter, Lady and Miss Sargood, Mrs E. Cornwall-Lewis and children, Mrs H. Liday, Mrs A. Koch-Suermondt, Mrs Kenneth, Mrs H. Iutjens, Mrs J. Smit, Mrs Stanley E. Unite, Misses Annie Brindley, Edith Brindley, Marianne Bierbaum, Busse, Bird, Bunzel, G. Brown, E. K. Brunl, M. Cairney, M. Davidson, M. Evans, Cadogan Fraser, Rosette Frankhauser, Julia Gyllisch, Gummer, Alberta J. Greening, Ethel B. Greening, Ruth Goldstein, C. van Holst-Pellekaan, Edith Harvey, Nit Kosa, Plang Kosa, Ilse Lobbbeck, L. Lyle, Mander, Martha Austin McDowell and maid, Nora C. Palmer, Sykes, van der Straaten, Elise Smith, Anna Marie von Solberg, Agnes von Stammern, A. Snouck-Hurgronja, E. G. Tanner, Tomkinson and. D. M. Wilson, Sister Gruschke, Dr. Walther E. Rathe, Dr. Tilmont, Major H. Richter, Master Arthur Sale, Master Edward Sale and servant, Count Bez and servant, Count Erik Moltke, Countess C. Moltke, Lieut. Euler, Lieut. Kraus, Capt. H. S. Scott Harden, Sir Cosmo Duff Gordon, H. R. H. Prince Asdang, Rudolf Freiherr von Brandenstein Capitano di Vascello Signor Ernesto Rubin de Cervin, Hauptmann Fritz Henz The Honorable Chas. Harris, His Excellency Phya Visut Koso, Siamese Minister to Great Britain, Guardia Marina, Signor Riccardo Grazioli Lanti, Hofjägermeister, Count Hemming Moltke and servant, Rittmeister Meyer, Tenente di Vascello, Signor Aldo Mentasti, Guardia Marina, Signor Pietra Negri, Kommerzienrat, Ritter F von Voigtländer, The Right Honorable, The Earl of Wicklow, The Countess of Wicklow and servant, Messrs. J. Abraham, Wm. Brindley, Aug. Bergmann, Hy. Baber, Sandor Beer, A. Becker, Charles Braun, W. Brinkmann, Ernst Hatz F. L. J. Buschgens, A. K. Berkhout, Burton, J. W. Crowdsen, T. W. Crowdsen, E. Consolvas, Willy Clausen, F. Crawe, R. Dotting, Gustav R. Eckerth, J. van Eerden, Heinrich Friedrichs, Walter Houghton, H. Holdert, Haythorp, J. R. Jamieson, Karl Kipke, F. Katenkamp, Earl Kaufmann, F. F. G. Kaulbach, J. Kadayanogi, J. E. Moltzer, Mounney, J. W. Mayne Campbell, John A. McDowell, H. Muir, Mellien, A. F. Nalder, Eduard Nöl, von Oertzen, Nelson Francis Ockenden, H. von Pedersen, Curt Pauly, N. Rodenburg, Chas. E. A. Rowe, Schultze, K. Saao, Archibald Taylor Herbert V. Unwin, F. C. Wilford, W. Willach, J. H. Walker and A. C. M. Willemse.

Per *Minnesot*, from Seattle, Mrs. J. S. Carroll, Mrs. F. E. Newberry, Mrs. Blodgett, Miss F. Carroll, Messrs. Bartolini, G. P. Lammert, J. M. Spaulding, Z. S. Spaulding, A. Watson, C. F. McWilliams, F. Ungethem and C. Way.

Per *Prinzess Alice*, for Hongkong, from Kobe, Mrs Raymond and Mr. F. Stevenson; from Nagasaki, Messrs. Avitakov, Sudakov; from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs Hassan, Mr and Mrs Kalisch, Mr and Mrs Caste Real, Mr and Mrs Marques, Mr and Mrs F. Glover, Mrs M. da Silva, Messrs. F. F. Funia, Hammeran, B. Silha, H. Löwinoohn, F. Walton, G. Agassiz, W. Scutt, O. Fischer, A. Senna, Moller and D. Williams.

Per *Chingtu*, from Australian Ports, Mesdames Newell, Thompson, Peyton, Bowden, Carter and 2 children, Addy, Gumnaw, Galardi, Mansfield and child, Vidgeon and 2 children, Master Addy, Messrs. Thompson, Forsyth, Nall, Maddern, Steed, Peyton, Carter, Archer, Allen, Bowden, Addy, Scott, Lamb, Austin, Campbell, Ratcliffe, Furniss, Best, Murnud, Bradshaw, McKedi, Davies, Collins, McCartley and Hoggsette.

DEPARTED.

Per *Zafiro* for Manila, Mr and Mrs Konig and infant, Messrs. J. Haynes, O. Kaiser, G. Reddick and W. Murray.

Per *Rubi*, for Manila, Mr and Mrs R. P. Strong, Messrs. H. F. Yoder, H. Lowinsotu, M. Evnburg and J. Ormiston.

Per *Empress of India*, for Vancouver, &c., Mr and Mrs Robb and four children, Mr and Mrs Shellim, Mr, Mrs and Misses White, Mr and Mrs Dignase, Mr and Mrs Hay, Mr and Mrs Parsons, Mr and Mrs Wanington, Mr and Mrs Johausin, Sir and Lady Cowasjee, Mrs and Misses Muradaw, Dr. and Mrs McFarland, Capt. and Lady Violet Henderson, Col. and Mrs Heathcote, Col. and Mrs Stanton, Mrs Wachter and son, Mrs Moxon and daughter, Mrs Randall, Mrs McLeod, Mrs Paget, Misses Buckley and Wilsons, Misses (3) Bagnall, Miss A. Pugh, Miss d'Abadie, Miss Johnson, Miss Wright, Miss Hulton, Miss B. Hay, Misses (3) Baynall, Miss Conde, Jos. A. Baker, Messrs. W. D. T. Marriash, Birdmann, Bagnall, P. S. Jameson, Mumoe, D. B. Murray, C. da Silva Azevedo, Jose F. Adade, H. S. Sweeting, Halden, Rev. R. T. Whitton, S. E. Seer, Martin St. Lion, S. A. Mair, Davieson, Ed. Mast, P. Dugard, J. A. Bradley, Wm. Lyall, H. L. Plath, A. M. Fry, R. D. Davies, W. R. Stikeman, Sataman, Manidt, S. C. Woodward, S. M. Clayton and S. de Havilland.

Per *Korea*, for San Francisco via Ports, Mr and Mrs Fred. Upjohn, Mr and Mrs J. S. Sternfield, Mr and Mrs T. Troupe, Mr and Mrs J. Van Roden, Mr and Mrs H. D. Corey, Mr and Mrs J. Whitaker, Mr and Mrs J. C. Musson, Mr and Mrs E. F. Johnson, Mr and Mrs E. Saliege, Mr and Mrs Auld, Mr and Mrs H. Hewett, Mr and Mrs F. M. Miller, Mr and Mrs W. B. Young, Mr and Mrs G. Walker and daughter, Capt. and Mrs Sternberger, Judge and Mrs Tracey, Dr. and Mrs. Wright, Dr. and Mrs Milton Keim, Dr. and Mr. Milton Keim, jr., Mrs J. C. Gassietl, Mrs M. E. dos Remedios, Mrs I. Carrington, Mrs C. Goff, Mrs J. B. Creighton, Mrs E. M. McPherson, Mrs W. O. Ashley, Mrs M. Ingram, Mrs F. Hewi t, Mrs Galbraith, Mrs E. F. Woodward, Mrs H. B. Rogers, Mrs E. C. Morgan, Mrs E. K. Sibley, Mrs M. A. Bostwick, Mrs C. M. Hathaway, Mrs J. S. Peck, Mrs M. C. Brewster, Mrs W. T. Russell, Mrs J. P. Fernard, Misses A. Hull, Hewitt, E. Mungatroual, H. Mungatroual, N. Whitaker, Bess, Irma Woodward, L. MacGregor, M. Marlow, M. L. Clark, M. W. Laurance, E. Marburg, Lucia Munder, Marcia Moore, Euphemia Moore, F. Senarcles and Flunscheim, Capt. A. Dixon, Capt. A. A. Higgins, Rev. Tipton & 3 children, Dr. F. J. Fluno, Dr. B. Beeson, Lieut. E. H. Watson, Master Walter Tracey, Lieut. W. W. Smith, Ensign S. C. Loomes, Messrs. E. Davis, H. W. Johnson, A. Lybrand, H. Taylor, S. Lagerburg, F. Treschow, O. Schoob, D. E. Newell, jr., G. MacGregor, E. L. Bartrun, C. C. Donovan, E. B. Latham, H. C. Thebald, N. W. Companale, Tsöa, H. Skott, Fred. A. Fischer, J. Tschetinian, T. H. Lgan, A. L. Farwell, W. A. Sundheimer, T. E. Taylor, B. Blanchard, W. B. Dickey and family, W. K. Peasley, C. Cellerrer, L. Cellerrer, W. Lyall, H. L. Platt, Tontier, H. Fry and E. D. Taylor.

Per *Yorck*, for Shanghai, Mr and Mrs Henry de Puy, Mr and Mrs A. Abraham, Mrs Tolodano, Misses Farrington and Newell, Consul H. B. Hartmann, Sir John Jordan, Messrs. T. F. Mayers, Tolodano, A. Luetsen, Paul Littinghaus, A. Haimon, A. S. Jesus, P. Mouprly, C. Hance, Platanistivtis Skala and Amende Ohl; for Nagasaki, Mrs Chitoh and Mr-Kano; for Kobe, Mr and Mrs J. Silva and children; for Yokohama, Mr and Mrs G. Hieber, Mr and Mrs Eveavers, Mr and Mrs S. W. Brown, Mr and Mrs Chisholm, Messrs. H. Henbendorf and J. Boeck.

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